

Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle



Papers for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 29th April, 2009

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 Mary's Church, Kidlington
on Wednesday, 29th April, 2009 at 8.00 p.m.

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Minutes of the 2008 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle was held in St John's Hall Church on 22nd April 2008 at 8.00 p.m. The meeting was preceded by Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m.

Those Present

Ian Howdill (In the Chair), John Amor, Jean Amor, Betty Angus, Jean Bagnall, Ann Beckett, Liz Bruce, Rob Bruce, Pat Bruder, Philippa Burrell, Catherine Button, Revd Hilary Campbell, Anne Clifton, Jimmy Clifton, Pamela Cooper, Marie Cosby, Glenys Dennett, Margaret Day, Bill Evershed, Rosemary Gardner, Monica Green, Peggy Harwood, David Hewett, Meghann Hewett, Stephanie Hobson, Margaret Lang, Michael Ling, Pat Marlow, Trevor Marlow, Karen Mason, Pat McGowan, Ted Mobley, John Morris, Joyce Morris, Cherill Seward, Malcolm Seward, Lesley Smith, Nicky Smith, Colin Thackray, David Townsend, Joan Townsend, Rosemary Tucker, Amey Tunney, Revd Jim Turner, Maureen Turner, Janet Warren, Eric Whittaker, Revd William Whyte, Eleanor Williamson (Secretary), Jim Williamson, Bilham Woods.

There were 51 people present.

Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers led by Hilary Campbell.

Apologies for Absence

Barbara Belcher, Ken Belcher, Bill Bruder, Robert Buckeldee, Mark Christodoulou, Yo Davies, Connie Elliott, Sue Greenaway, Caroline Howdill, Marian Kubat, Nick Kubat, Stephanie Leach, Cicely Lee, Kate Seward, Stella Shelton, Ali Wharmby, Nick Wharmby.

Election of Churchwardens

Nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

St John's, Kidlington:

Mark Christodoulou (proposed Joan Townsend, seconded Patsy Johnson)

Rosemary Gardner (proposed Joan Townsend, seconded Glenys Dennett)

St Mary's, Kidlington:

Bill Evershed (proposed John Amor, seconded Colin Thackray)

Joyce Morris (proposed Janis Cairns, seconded Marie Cosby)

St Mary's, Hampton Poyle

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

Monica Green (proposed Isobel Pook, seconded Maureen Turner)

No other candidates were nominated. The six were elected, with all favour, to serve as Churchwardens for the year 2008/2009:

Mark Christodoulou (3rd year), Rosemary Gardner (2nd year), Bill Evershed (1st year), Joyce Morris (4th year), Jean Bagnall (2nd year), Monica Green (3rd year).

Approve and Confirm Minutes of last APCM

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held on 25th April 2007 at St Mary's, Kidlington were approved and confirmed.

(a) Elect members to serve on Deanery Synod

Nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Ian Howdill (proposed John Morris, seconded Janet Warren)
John Morris (proposed Rosemary Tucker, seconded Roger Mills)
Colin Thackray (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Marie Cosby)
Rosemary Tucker (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Yo Davies)
Janet Warren (proposed Caroline Howdill, seconded Betty Angus)

No other candidates were nominated. The five were elected, with all favour, to serve for 3 years on Deanery Synod.

(b) Elect members to serve on the Parochial Church Council

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

Robert Buckeldee, Philippa Burrell, Yo Davies, Bill Evershed, Margaret Lang, Stephanie Leach, Michael Ling, David Townsend, Joan Townsend, 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 was nominated for election and is eligible to stand:

Meghann Hewett (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Rosemary Tucker)

Meghann was elected unopposed to serve on the PCC.

The elected membership of the PCC is now:

Robert Buckeldee (3rd year), Philippa Burrell (2nd year), Yo Davies (2nd year), Bill Evershed (2nd year), Meghann Hewett (1st year), Margaret Lang (2nd year), Stephanie Leach (3rd year), Michael Ling (2rd year), David Townsend (2nd year), Joan Townsend (2nd year), Nick Wharmby (3rd year).

Appoint Sidespersons for the current year

The following were nominated to serve as sidespersons:

For St Mary's, Kidlington:

Jill Buckeldee, Robert Buckeldee, Marie Cosby, Yo Davies, Meghann Hewett, Ian Howdill, Roger Mills, Alice Norrie, Ray Norrie, Celia Orr, Judy Peters, Christine Sims, Colin Thackray, Anne Thomas, Peter Venables, Olive Williams, Bilham Woods

For St John's, Kidlington:

Barbara Belcher, Iris Darvill, Margaret Day, Angela Dean, Caroline Johnson, Beth Morgan, Ruth Morley, Margery Petrie, Malcolm Seward, David Townsend, Joan Townsend, Pat Whittington

For St Mary's, Hampton Poyle:

Judith Baker, Joan Barrett, Tracey Bickley, Vera Hurren, Pat O'Gorman, Isobel Pook, Katy Smith

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

Appoint an Independent Examiner

Mr David Wilkins had indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner and his reappointment for 2008 was agreed (proposed Janet Warren, seconded John Morris).

Approve Members of the St Mary's Committee

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

John Amor (proposed John Morris, seconded Marie Cosby)
Jimmy Clifton (proposed Olive Williams, seconded Caroline Howdill)
Marie Cosby (proposed Roger Mills, seconded Olive Williams)
Caroline Howdill (proposed Janet Warren, seconded Joyce Morris)
Ian Howdill (proposed Colin Thackray, seconded John Morris)
Lesley Smith (proposed Marie Cosby, seconded Ann Beckett)
Colin Thackray (proposed Marie Cosby, seconded Olive Williams)

There were no other nominations. The seven were approved, with all favour, to serve on the St Mary's Committee.

Approve Members of the St John's Committee

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Ken Belcher (proposed Angela Dean, seconded Margaret Day)
Margaret Day (proposed Joan Townsend, seconded David Townsend)
Rachel Evans (proposed Rosemary Gardner, seconded David Townsend)
Gail Nawrocki (proposed Mark Christodoulou, seconded Rosemary Gardner)
David Townsend (proposed Rosemary Gardner, seconded Margaret Day)

There was one other nomination:

Pat Whittington (proposed Rosemary Gardner, seconded Margaret Day)

All six were approved, with all in favour, to serve on the St John's Committee.

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 Katy Smith, seconded Monica Green)
Katy Smith (proposed Joan Barrett, seconded Pat O'Gorman)

There were no other nominations. The seven were approved, with all in favour, to serve on the St Mary's Hampton Poyle Committee.

Approve Members of the St John's Hall Management Committee

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Margaret Day (proposed Mark Christodoulou, seconded Rosemary Gardner)
Ted Mobley (proposed Rosemary Gardner, seconded Mark Christodoulou)

David Townsend (proposed Glenys Dennett, seconded Patsy Johnson)

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

Elect representatives for Churches Together in Kidlington

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Catherine Button (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Ian Howdill)

Gail Nawrocki (proposed Mark Christodoulou, seconded Rosemary Gardner)

There was one other nomination:

Pat Whittington (proposed Rosemary Gardner, seconded Margaret Day)

All three were elected to represent the Parish on the Committee of Churches Together in Kidlington (CTK).

Consider the Electoral Roll Report

John Amor, the Electoral Roll Officer, presented the report on the Roll, which now numbered 262. Over the year there had been additions and deletions, and overall the roll was down by 3 compared to 2007, when it numbered 265.

John encouraged anyone wanting to join the roll to put their name forward after the meeting. He offered to make available a list of members, by e-mail, should anyone want a copy.

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.

With regard to St Mary's, Kidlington, John Amor invited offers for 'church sitting', particularly for the Wednesdays 2.30 – 5:00 slot, in order to keep the church open. He thanked those who had volunteered last year.

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

Michael Ling summarised the financial reports and statements presented in the Annual Report booklet (pages 13-21). He referred to the acceptance of the accounts by the Independent Examiner's report (page 14).

There was one question from the floor. Under 'Resources Expended' (page 18), the expenditure against 'Junior Church' of £869.65 was queried: what did this cover? Michael responded that this meant Junior Church in the broadest sense, and included St John's Sunday school, the Under Fives group, and youth group ('TIG').

The Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2007 were accepted (proposed Michael Ling, seconded Rosemary Tucker).

Consider Fabric Report

Ian Howdill presented the Fabric Report, given in the Annual Report booklet (page 36). He made the following comments:

St John's has been in need of refurbishment for some time, and the Architect is producing three different, imaginative schemes, which will be put on display in due course. At St Mary's, Kidlington, roofing lead had been replaced following recent thefts. At St Mary's, Hampton Poyle, discussions continued regarding the incorporation of toilet facilities onto the church site: the next step was to meet with the community to seek their ideas.

The Fabric Report was accepted (proposed Ian Howdill).

Consider Deanery Synod Report

Janet Warren referred to the Deanery Synod report in the Annual Report booklet (page 37).

There were no comments or questions. The Deanery Synod Report was accepted.

Consider any other matters of parochial or general Church interest

Two matters were raised:

Strategy discussion (Hilary Campbell)

Hilary began by highlighting some of the key parish discussions over the year and how they supported the parish strategy, 'to create a healthy church community and healthy wider community'. Discussions had included 'young people' (youth worker; TIG), 'resources and places' (buildings improvements; finance; inaugurating the Giving Committee) and 'developing people' (lay ministries; opportunities to explore faith, e.g. through confirmation).

She then introduced Bishop John's strategy discussion paper, '*Sharing Life: Making a Difference*'. This paper is a response to the question "what now...?", and in it he suggests some thoughts, and invites comments. It has 5 strands:

- Sustaining the sacred centre
- Making disciples
- Making a difference in society
- Creating vibrant Christian communities
- Shaping confident, collaborative leadership

Hilary invited the meeting to consider how the things we are currently doing as a parish fit into these strands, and a number of examples were offered. Bishop John is seeking feedback between now and October, so this is likely to be an ongoing discussion.

'The Anglican Communion' (Rosemary Tucker)

Rosemary Tucker offered a statement for discussion, which she had received from the Inclusive Church network, of which she is a member. This began: 'In advance of the Lambeth Conference... At a time of debate and discernment in our life together we believe the best way forward will not include segregating or excluding those with whom we disagree', and continued

with an affirmation that we 'celebrate the gift of our diversity and are committed to being a broad Church that accepts and welcomes difference'.

Rosemary invited the meeting to support the statement. A show of hands suggested that those present were largely in favour, with two against.

It was agreed that the discussion would need to go wider to decide whether it was appropriate for the parish to formally sign up to the statement, and that this should be raised with each of the three churches.

Any Other Business

Reminders were given about the upcoming Lee Abbey weekend, and the 'Islam' evening, to be presented by Lutfi and Ruby Radwan, on 29th April at Hampton Poyle.

Set the Date for the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be held on Wednesday April 29th April 2009, at St Mary's, Kidlington.

Closing Prayers

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Eleanor Williamson

Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle: Annual Report for 2008

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 Chris Caspell, 2 Axtell Close, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 1TW

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. Canon Anthony Ellis (Chairman)
Team Vicar: The Rev. Hilary Campbell
Assistant Curate: Rev. Jason St John Nicolle (until spring 2008)
Associate Minister: The Rev. Dr William Whyte
Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Lesley Heffer

Churchwardens: Mrs Jean Bagnall
Mr Mark Christodoulou
Dr Bill Evershed (from APCM 2008)
Mrs Rosemary Gardner
Mrs Monica Green
Mr Ian Howdill (until APCM 2008)
Mrs Joyce Morris

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)
Mrs Yo Davies (from APCM 2007, for 2 years)
Mrs Meghann Hewett (co-opted initially, 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:

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 fifteen.

PCC has continued to engage with the 'Sharing Life+' strategic planning framework, and will be carrying forward a number of practical actions, including an audit of talents, into the new PCC year.

Considerable headway has been made on identifying requirements for a Youth Worker within the parish and wider community, and PCC has allocated budget to support this work.

Consultation over kitchen refurbishments at St John's, and kitchen space and a toilet facility at St Mary's, Hampton Poyle, have progressed to planning stage. Extensive refurbishments have been undertaken at 29, Anderson's Close. Concern has been raised that St Mary's, Kidlington may need significant roofing work in the near future.

There has been continued awareness of the need to meet the Parish Share, and to increase giving. The Giving Committee has been instrumental in helping to facilitate an increase over the year. PCC is exploring the issue of Charitable (Mission) Giving: whether such giving is realistic within current financial constraints and if so how it might, in practice, be achieved.

The formal business has covered issues of finance and budget, the constitution of the St John's Hall Management Committee, and child protection. 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 Almshouses.
- **Mission and Outreach Committee:** This nurtures links with other parishes and organizations and prepares proposals for mission giving allocation.
- **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 John's Hall Management Committee** – This oversees the running, maintenance and upkeep of the Hall.
- **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 Gail Nawrocki
Mrs Pat Whittington
Joan Townsend

Church Attendance

At the APCM in April 2008 there were 262 names on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle. This was three fewer than in 2007, when it numbered 265. The average attendance at the main Sunday service is: 130 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 2008: Stephen Doran (27th April, at a service held at Summertown United Reformed Church); Naomi Heffer, Daniel Williams, Samuel Leach and Richard Davies (23rd November, at a service held at St Mary's, Kidlington).

Eleanor Williamson

Treasurer's Report on the Parish Accounts for 2008

The net deficit of £8,526 is due to payments from restricted funds of amounts received in previous years, and losses on the investments held by endowment funds caused by the current economic situation: the unrestricted funds show a surplus of £3,669.

The General Fund, which covers the day-to-day activities of the PCC, made a surplus of £4,785 before allocations.

After allocating sums to the St John's Hall account and towards financing the quinquennial survey of properties, a sum of £2,658 was available to put towards meeting the cost of future increases in the parish share (quota).

The surplus on the General Fund was far better than anticipated, with the increase in giving showing an encouraging trend toward the parish being able to meet its quota commitments in the future.

A fortuitous one-off saving on energy costs, together with rental income from Anderson's Close, were able to off-set in part the cost of refurbishing Anderson's Close and housing the temporary curate.

The refurbishment of the refectory was largely funded by a generous benefactor.

Major building works are planned at St Mary's (Hampton Poyle) and at St John's. It has also been recognised that major repair works will be required to all parish properties. It is anticipated that these costs will be financed through fundraising efforts.

Meeting our commitment to pay a parish share that covers our clergy costs, less fees earned for the Diocese, remains a major challenge over the next few years.

Michael Ling CPFA

Independent Examiner's Report

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2008, which are set-out on pages 3 to 9, 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 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

Chris Caspell
2 Axtell Close, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 1TW

Dated

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

Subject to independent examination

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	Funds	Funds	Funds	2008	2007
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	3a	109,152	7,971	0	117,123	219,892
Activities for generating funds	3b	5,687	3,047	0	8,734	6,276
Income from investments	3c	6,951	366	284	7,601	2,381
Church activities	3d	20,494	0	0	20,494	16,690
Other incoming resources	3e	5,997	800	0	6,797	468
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		148,281	12,184	284	160,749	245,707
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Cost of generating funds	4a	1,121	0	0	1,121	815
Church activities	4b	142,517	23,063	0	165,580	210,856
Governance costs	4c	250	0	0	250	250
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		143,888	23,063	0	166,951	211,921
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS						
		4,393	-10,879	284	-6,201	33,786
Transfers						
Transfers-in between funds		4,061	13,162	0	17,223	12,198
Transfers-out between funds		-4,785	-12,438	0	-17,223	-12,198
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER GAINS/LOSSES		3,669	-10,155	284	-6,201	33,786
Losses on investment assets:						
on revaluation	6	0	-301	-2,024	-2,325	6,976
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		3,669	-10,456	-1,740	-8,526	40,762
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY						
		74,906	77,349	9,482	161,737	119,804
Adjustment re Dodd Fund investment	2					1,171
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		78,575	66,893	7,742	153,211	161,737

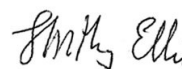
The notes below form part of these accounts

PCC Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008

Subject to independent examination

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2008	2007
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS (Investments)	6	6,770	9,095
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	20,283	14,830
Cash at bank and in hand		139,469	146,594
Total Current Assets		159,752	161,424
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	8	13,312	8,782
Net current assets/(liabilities)		146,440	152,642
TOTAL NET ASSETS		153,210	161,737
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted	9	78,575	74,906
Restricted	2/9	66,893	77,349
Endowment	2/9	7,742	9,482
Total Parish Funds	2/9	153,210	161,737

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10 March 2009 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Canon JA Ellis

The notes below form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008

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 where the capital 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 related is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts involved. 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 when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Unrealized 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 s96(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.

Note (2) Adjustments relating to the Dodd Fund

The Dodd Fund is now treated as a restricted fund, rather than an endowment. The investment held by the fund has now been brought into the accounts.

Notes (3) – (8)

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2008 (£)	2007 (£)
3 INCOMING RESOURCES					
3a Voluntary income					
Planned giving					
Bank	46,114	24	0	46,138	38,811
Envelopes	25,144	0	0	25,144	24,842
Collections	12,448	1,970	0	14,418	17,443
Donations	6,424	5,131	0	11,555	21,825
Tax recovered	19,022	846	0	19,868	17,775
Grants	0	0	0	0	99,196
	<u>109,152</u>	<u>7,971</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>117,123</u>	<u>219,892</u>
3b Activities for generating funds					
Fund-raising	5,687	3,047	0	8,734	6,276
3c Investment income					
Dividends and interest	1,761	366	284	2,411	2,381
Rent from land and buildings	5,190	0	0	5,190	0
	<u>6,951</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>7,601</u>	<u>2,381</u>
3d Income from church activities					
Fees	10,908	0	0	10,908	9,626
Church hall lettings	5,388	0	0	5,388	4,418
Letting of church buildings	4,198	0	0	4,198	2,646
	<u>20,494</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,494</u>	<u>16,690</u>
3e Other incoming resources					
Trips and visits	5,204	0	0	5,204	0
Other	793	800	0	1,593	468
	<u>5,997</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,797</u>	<u>468</u>
Total incoming resources	148,281	12,184	284	160,749	245,707
4 RESOURCES EXPENDED					
4a Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising	1,121	0	0	1,121	815
4b Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Missionary societies	0	0	0	0	1,100
Relief and development agencies	0	2,694	0	2,694	1,615
Home mission	0	219	0	219	200
Secular charities	0	530	0	530	1,959
Ministry:					
Diocesan parish share(Quota)	67,900	0	0	67,900	60,140
Churches Together in Kidlington	300	0	0	300	300
Junior Church groups	813	0	0	813	869
Music	4,890	0	0	4,890	5,000
Repairs and maintenance	9,114	3,846	0	12,960	8,604
Spire works	0	10,656	0	10,656	89,286
Other major works	15,446	2,181	0	17,627	0
Heat, light and cleaning	1,603	0	0	1,603	7,814
Church hall running costs (excluding insurance)	5,186	0	0	5,186	4,245
Insurance	10,054	0	0	10,054	8,462
Office and admin costs	11,490	0	0	11,490	11,940
Other supplies and services	15,721	2,937	0	18,658	9,322
	<u>142,517</u>	<u>23,063</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>165,580</u>	<u>210,856</u>
4c Governance costs					
Examination of accounts	250	0	0	250	250
Total resources expended	143,888	23,063	0	166,951	211,921

5	(a) STAFF COSTS	£
	Salaries and wages	8,562
	Employer's national insurance contributions	<u>295</u>
		<u>8,857</u>

During the year the PCC employed a parish administrator and a cleaner.
Together these employees equate to less than one full-time employee.

(b) PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

No payments have been made to any PCC member.

6 FIXED ASSETS

Investments

	Bulford	Freeborn	Hulbert	Dodd	TOTAL	
	£	£	£	£	2008	2007
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Market value at 1 January	5,287	2,286	352	1,171	9,096	7,001
Gain/Loss on revaluation	-1,350	-584	-90	-301	-2,325	923
Adj re Dodd Fund						<u>1,171</u>
Market value at 31 Dec	<u>3,937</u>	<u>1,702</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>6,771</u>	<u>9,095</u>

7 DEBTORS AND PRE-PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2008	2007
	£	£	£	£	£
Tax recoverable	13,782	846	0	14,628	12,281
Other debtors	2,855	0	0	2,855	102
Prepayments	2,800	0	0	2,800	2,447
	<u>19,437</u>	<u>846</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,283</u>	<u>14,830</u>

8 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2008	2007
	£	£	£	£	£
HM Revenue and Customs	144	0	0	144	65
Diocesan fees	1,976	0	0	1,976	961
Other fees	395	0	0	395	1,987
Utilities	1,251	0	0	1,251	2,500
Other creditors	9,020	526	0	9,546	415
Receipts in advance	0	0	0	0	2,854
	<u>12,786</u>	<u>526</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,312</u>	<u>8,782</u>

Note (9) Funds

The funds, their category and use are as follows:

- **General** (*Unrestricted*) Used for all general purposes of the PCC, unless covered by another fund.
- **Buildings Appeal** (*Restricted*) Covers the major repairs to the spire at St Mary's, Kidlington, and the appeal for funds to cover those costs. Often referred to as the 'Spire Fund'.
- **Bell Maintenance** (*Restricted*) For the repair, maintenance and replacement of bells and bellringing equipment.
- **Bulford** (*Endowment*) Miss VM Bulford bequest 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*) For the maintenance of the churchyard at Hampton Poyle.
- **Donations** (*Restricted*) Used for purposes specified by donors.
- **Flowers** (*Restricted*) Provision of flowers to decorate church.
- **Freeborn** (*Endowment*) Bequest 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*) For major building works at St Mary's, Hampton Poyle.
- **Hulbert** (*Endowment*) Miss S Hulbert bequest, 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 keyboard and amplification.
- **Mission** (*Unrestricted*) Sums put aside by the PCC for distribution as Mission.
- **Quinquennial Survey** (*Unrestricted*) Provides for the cost of the quinquennial survey of buildings.
- **Quota Reserve** (*Unrestricted*) Consists of recent annual surpluses on the General Fund, set-aside to ease known increases in the parish share (Quota) to meet the Deanery policy of each parish to meet at least the full cost of its stipendiary clergy (less fees earned for the Diocese).
- **Reserve** (*Unrestricted*) To cover sudden and unforeseen liabilities.
- **Social** (*Unrestricted*) Balance on activities held for social purposes (rather than fundraising).
- **St John's Hall** (*Unrestricted*) St John's Church Hall: use as a community building.
- **St John's 50th Anniversary** (*Restricted*) To celebrate 50th anniversary of St John's.
- **St John's Improvements** (*Unrestricted*) Improvements to the St John's building.
- **Vestments** (*Restricted*) Provides for vestments at St Mary's, Kidlington.
- **Woodwork, St Mary's, Kidlington** (*Restricted*) Repairs to wooden fabric at St Mary's, Kidlington.
- **Youthworker** (*Restricted*) Youthwork in the parish and within Wolvercote and Summertown.

Michael Ling

Statement Summary of Funds for the year ended 31 December 2008

Fund	Balance brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains/ Losses	Balance carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General	0	139,884	135,099	-4,785	0	0
Mission	83	0	0	0	0	83
Quinquennial Survey	131	0	0	300	0	431
Quota Reserve	40,116	0	0	2,658	0	42,774
Reserve	23,334	0	0	0	0	23,334
St John's Hall	10,781	5,758	6,863	1,103	0	10,779
St John's Improvements	296	2,639	1,926	0	0	1,009
Social	165	0	0	0	0	165
	<u>74,906</u>	<u>148,281</u>	<u>143,888</u>	<u>-724</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>78,575</u>
Restricted Funds						
Buildings Appeal	13,675	0	10,656	0	0	3,019
Bell Maintenance	263	121	0	0	0	384
Dodd	2,765	112	1,084	0	-301	1,492
Donations	17,149	5,671	7,246	-11,714	0	3,860
Flowers	220	855	850	0	0	225
Hampton Poyle Appeal	7,218	2,343	918	7,438	0	16,081
Keyboard	123	0	0	0	0	123
St John's 50th Anniversary	748	1,240	939	0	0	1,049
Vestments	1,382	0	107	0	0	1,275
Woodwork, St Mary's	3,385	1,818	1,263	5,000	0	8,940
Youthworker	30,421	24	0	0	0	30,445
	<u>77,349</u>	<u>12,184</u>	<u>23,063</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>-301</u>	<u>66,893</u>
Endowments						
Bulford	6,346	189	0	0	-1,350	5,185
Freeborn	2,743	83	0	0	-584	2,242
Hulbert	393	12	0	0	-90	315
	<u>9,482</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-2,024</u>	<u>7,742</u>
Total	<u>161,737</u>	<u>160,749</u>	<u>166,951</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-2,325</u>	<u>153,210</u>

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Rector's Report

The Diocese has launched a strategy for the future entitled 'Living Faith Plus'.

It seemed to me that it would be worthwhile to compose my annual report to you using the main themes from Sharing Life Plus. In the second part of 2008 the Church Council spent its time at our meetings considering these five main themes:

1. Sustaining the Sacred Centre
2. Making Disciples
3. Making a difference in Society
4. Creating vibrant Christian Communities
5. Shaping confident collaborative leadership.

Sustaining the Sacred Centre

What is the 'Sacred Centre' you might ask? It can be seen as just as the Church buildings. There is a real sense that in keeping the buildings open for worship on Sundays we are sustaining our local sacred centres. However I am deeply uneasy that they continued to be locked during daylight hours for most weekdays. Visitors and local people are locked out of a place of beauty and peace in which they can be nourished and sustained.

There is more to sustaining the sacred centre than the buildings called churches. The Church Council spent time thinking about this issue at its meeting in September when we recognised that our regular pattern of worship was a way that church people can be sustained but that there were things that could be improved. It was suggested that there should be a period of silence after the sermon to digest the contents for a moment or two.

I was asked to produce a prayer diary so that we could have topics and themes to pray about on a weekly basis. For some months now that has been available. I was asked to organise a school of prayer which is planned for 2009. Two other tasks given to me were to do something about reviving Sunday evening worship; I have not done so yet. I have delayed planning a 'Prayer Walk' until the warmer and lighter days of Summer are with us.

These new initiatives are in addition to the things that have been taking place in previous years. There are groups that meet for prayer and study that take place through the year and specifically during Lent. These happened throughout 2008 as did two Quiet Days.

These are just some of the ways that we sustain our sacred centre but there is more to be done and I would welcome your thoughts on what more we could do.

Making Disciples

This is the core of what the Church is all about. We do not exist just to get people to come to Church and be part of a congregation. We want to build up our congregations so that more people come to experience the love of God as we know it in Jesus Christ. It seems to me that the more disciples of Christ that there are the more difference we can make in our society (see the next heading!) It is important to stress that we do not make disciples just to pay the bills and share the burdens of the Church. We want to make disciples because we believe that Christ can

transform people's lives and the world. So how did we do in 2008 and how can we measure that? Statistics would suggest that our congregations did not diminish during the year and that there were encouraging signs that our work with children and young people is growing. We had a confirmation in November when five candidates were confirmed. During the year there were 43 baptisms but we are not good at bringing the families of the newly baptised into church life.

When we spoke about making disciples in our church Council a key area was making new comers to our services feel welcomed. I am told by some who come that they felt very warmly received but not every visitor had such a good experience. Sensitive welcoming and continuing to make newcomers feel at home after the first couple of visits to church are vital.

I remain concerned that we need could do a great deal more to 'make disciples' and there is further work to be done in this area.

Making a Difference in Society

This is what disciples of Christ are required to do. If we shut ourselves up in Church and look after our own ecclesiastical needs then we are missing the point completely. What difference did we make in Kidlington and Hampton Poyle in 2008? I could tell you of the 80 families to whom we ministered at funerals. I hope that our ministry made a difference to them as it did to the 23 couples whose weddings we took. I know that many members of the Church in Kidlington serve the wider community in a number of ways. We are slowly working towards providing a youth worker who will attempt to meet some of the marginalised young people in Kidlington. Church people visit Glebe House. Others serve on various committees and within organisations like the Scouts. I believe that the Christian Community is the leaven the lump in our communities and without Christians Kidlington and Hampton Poyle would be poorer places for that. However I am not complacent and there is far more that we can do. We need to remember that we must not restrict ourselves to the purely local and that we have a responsibility to the wider world. Our concerns for the environment and for the support we give to children through 'Edukid' and to our partner church in South Africa is a way we make a difference in the global society. There is so much more that could be done!

Creating Vibrant Christian Communities

Well how vibrant are we? If you were a stranger coming to one of our congregations would you think that it was a lively 'happening' place? I guess some would say that at first sight there is not a great deal happening and that may be a failure of communication.

I, for one, feel exhausted before my day off on Friday. There is a great happening which may not be obvious at first sight. We are slowly moving to renovate all three buildings at the moment. In 2008 St John's Church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a series of highly successful events. St Mary's Hampton Poyle held a number of fundraising events which brought that small community together and I recognise a sense of purpose there.

We held a parish weekend at Lee Abbey in early July. While we did not manage to attract as many people to the event as we had hoped, it was a worthwhile experience.

There was a highly successful Barbeque in the Rectory garden in August In November a concert took place at St Mary's to raise funds for the parish. While these fundraising events were not without significance for the treasurer, they create community. In organising outings on a Saturday I notice that there is a joyfulness and excitement about travelling together. In some

small way it contributes to sustaining our sacred centres. Yes, I think we are quite vibrant but more could be done.

Shaping Confident Collaborative Leadership.

As the Team Rector I need to be judged by you but I do try to share responsibility and, in Bishop Richard Harries' words, "to allow good things to happen". I notice that in so many areas of parish life individuals take ownership for activities and events. We are indeed fortunate to have six excellent and committed church wardens, a most efficient PCC secretary, a hard-working and thoughtful treasurer and a most efficient Stewardship administrator. I can not imagine how we would cope without the work that Trish Freideman does in the Parish Office. St Mary's Kidlington can only operate efficiently because there is a verger who oversees so many hidden details. We are indeed blessed by having so many life people who take responsibility for Parish Life.

It remains for me to note that Reverend Jason St John Nicolle completed his time with us last Spring and took up the post of incumbent of the Churn Benefice near Didcot. It is a sadness that Rev Bill Fosdyke is no longer able to exercise a ministry with us. Ian Howdill completed his term of office as Church Warden but continues to serve the parish diligently in his work supervising the repairs and maintenance of our three buildings. From the beginning of April until the end of June, I had a period of study leave which enabled me to spend six weeks gaining further insights into the workings of our link parish at All Saints Montshiwa and the wider South African Church scene. I remain most grateful to other clergy who give such devoted service to our Team Ministry. May I thank you all for your work and ministry in our Parish.

Anthony Ellis

Team Vicar and St John's, Kidlington Report

'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...' (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I love the way the calendar of faith offers us the gift of punctuation marks for our lives: time to celebrate, time to remember, time to step into something new, time to make commitment, time for beginnings, time for endings, time to enter into the mystery of living and loving. The annual meeting brings together many different times for our remembering and encouragement.

Welcomes and Goodbyes

This year at St John's we've welcomed through baptism Josie Evans, Quinn Slade, Selena Morgan and Uzoma Anya. Young people Stephen Doran, Samuel Leach and Daniel Williams have made their own commitment to faith at confirmation services. We celebrated with Becky and Rick Rixon as they married each other at St Mary's in June. We said goodbye to Bet Heasman who moved to Chelmsford and to Glenys and Tony Dennett who emigrated to Australia. Both are still in touch with friends from St John's. We mourned the loss of Dick Elliott, one of those who took active part in the beginnings of the Anglican church community in south Kidlington (and sadly have just heard that, nearly a year on, Dick's wife Connie has died).

St John's Golden Anniversary

This year has been a key and important opportunity to reflect, to give thanks for what has been and to look forward to how the building can continue to be a focus for worship and service for

the community. And what an amazing year it has been! There was the Barn Dance in February, a wonderful weekend of events in June around our Patronal Festival, with procession to the church, games, stalls, hog roast, knights in armour, air cadets, launch of 50 golden balloons (some of which got all the way to Denmark!), thanksgiving services with the Archdeacon of Oxford, Julian Hubbard, Bishop of Oxford John Pritchard and St John Ambulance. Other visiting preachers were the local artist Nicholas Mynheer (who created the etched windows in the Lady Chapel) and Chris Turner, founder of the charity Edukid. In terms of publications colourful leaflets and booklets informed local residents of events and gave an abbreviated history of St John's. David Townsend also completed production of an illustrated history, From the little wooden church in the meadows which has sold well.

In September there was another craft evening, and then a weekend of events on 27/28th September with musical evening displaying local singing talent; Flower Festival (in association with Bladon Flower Club), teas, children's vegetable competition, display of photos and other memorabilia relating to the development of St John's; Harvest Festival service with preacher Canon David Pritchard (a former curate); and songs of praise evening service displaying the congregation's top ten favourite hymns.

Over the 18 months since we began 50th anniversary events a total of £1,100 has been raised and will be used in the plans to re-develop the building. Also we have been able to give just over £274 to Edukid from the anniversary saving boxes. We have had many gifts from the whole experience, and have also received more specific gifts, some in memory of dear friends of St Johns.

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, Gift Sunday, and Children's Takeover Sunday.

This year the Nativity presentation was entitled Jump for Joy and very appropriately included mention of the role of St John the Baptist. In this account the young Jesus and his cousin John meet unexpectedly as young boys, on the way to Jerusalem with their families for Passover. The boys discover a connection - for both of them an angel visitor announced their forthcoming births to their families. The boys ask their mothers for the full stories. It had a well-deserved reprise during the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. The Christingle service was a joyful preparation for Christmas with local Brownies also taking part. 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 Johns.

T.I.G. (Together in God) is the parish youth group for 11 to 16 year olds and this year enjoyed a joint event with young people in the Dorchester Team, gathering at Dorchester Abbey for an overnight event on Easter Eve, leading to a dawn service at Wittenham Clumps on Easter morning. **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, activities, refreshment and chat. The group now has its own colourful and distinctive floor cushions, which were blessed in June. Links are continuing to develop with local schools, especially **West Kidlington School**, where I am now a community governor. In July, St John's welcomed 59 children from Year 2 to visit and hear stories about St John's and a Godly Play presentation on baptism.

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. We have met with the architect and the Diocesan Advisory Committee and have a preferred drawing to work on.

In terms of **worship** we continue to explore elements that may enhance our worship time together on Sunday as well as contribute to our travelling 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 (eg the ecumenical Lent groups). A monthly lunch-time bible discussion group, Food for Thought continues at St John's Vicarage. Holy Week is an intensive journey, with a variety of reflective opportunities, sadly this year also including the funeral service of Dick Elliott. 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. Tuesday evening services focusing on prayers for healing and wholeness now take place on a quarterly basis. The morning weekday communion service at St John's has proved not viable and is discontinued. In Advent the Travelling Nativity, or Posada, again became part of the Advent preparation time for some, as did a time of Advent reflections on Wednesday evenings.

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 were delighted to be part of the celebrations for **Pamela Baker's ordination** and be part of her sending-out to be curate in the ecumenical parish of Blackbird Leys. 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, 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 third year of office, and to Rosemary Gardner in her second 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 2008

A particular thank you from me this year for all the support during the Rector's sabbatical.

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.

*To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...
There is a pearl in every season. Find it. Then give all you have to claim it.*

Hilary Campbell

St Mary's, Kidlington Report

This is my first St Mary's Report, but it covers familiar territory, because we enjoy a mixture of the familiar and the new. We start with gratitude to all those who make St Mary's what it is - the clergy team, servers, sidespeople, intercessors, readers, flower arrangers, bell ringers, vergers, cleaners, Sunday School teachers, choir. We also remember Ian Howdill's role as Warden, and in his continuing oversight of the fabric of the church. As usual, the church building has been used for our own regular worship, for marriages, baptisms and funerals, and for various community events. What has been different?

A side-effect of the financial health of the commodity markets earlier this year was the theft of lead from the Refectory roof, and consequent rain damage to a corner of the interior. This was eventually repaired and redecorated, and combined with other work to put up better notice boards, and to do a complete refit of the kitchen. We were very grateful to Bilham Woods for a generous donation which paid for the majority of the work to the kitchen. We now have much-improved storage space, and a dish-washer, making catering much easier and - we hope - making the Refectory more attractive to hire. Charity lunches in the Refectory continue to be organised, and are popular and successful. It is also used for many outreach activities, for example hosting Mothers and Toddlers, the flower group and the art group.

We re-ordered the children's area, giving them space at the back of the church to read or play. It's slightly noisier, but we hope they feel more of a part of it all. Besides which, St Mary's is a big building, and there's usually space at the front if people find yourselves too disturbed at the back.

The church roof is showing its age, and a feature of the autumn was the arrival of a crop of buckets strategically placed to catch the drips. We have to face the very real possibility of replacing much of the roof, although we hope this can be scheduled, with other work, over the next 10 years. We also hope that this is the sort of project that can appeal to people who appreciate St Mary's as an ancient building, worth preserving for that reason alone, so that the financial burden on worshippers can be shared with others.

We are privileged to have our clergy team, and also the various 'irregulars' who add to the variety. In February, Jason left us, and we escorted him off the premises with a choral evensong, followed by a reception and presentation. Later on, in May, we joined others in East Hagbourne to see him instituted to his new ministry. Between April and June, Anthony took a sabbatical, and we were grateful to the rest of the team, including Mervyn, for their help in taking services. We managed, but we were glad when Anthony returned. We've also been assisted by Dr William Whyte, whose SCR wit has added savour to various topics, including a very sensitive handling of the sermon on Remembrance Sunday. The Revd Jennifer Brown was a regular

celebrant and preacher between October and December, and very quickly became such a normal part of our lives that many of us were selfishly disappointed when she obtained the Chaplaincy of Jesus College.

The Kimberley and Kuruman link continues. Part of Anthony's sabbatical was spent there, and he and Kathryn spoke about this at an evening meeting in October. Later we were addressed by Hope Tshenkeng, Dicesan President of K&K's Mothers' Union. This might be the right point to mention our own very active Mothers' Union, to whom Hope also spoke.

In Lent, members of our church met with other denominations for study groups, and there was year-round activity from our own fellowship groups.

There have been various Parish events, including the weekend away to Lee Abbey. The Cakes and Ale theatre company did their by now traditional garden performance, this year of 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'. Anthony was roped in to help, and as the part of the garrulous Welsh clergyman was already filled, played the part of 'Third servant' with brio. The Rectory garden was also used for the Family Fun Evening (and barbecue), which was felt to be a great success, taking place on August's only dry Saturday. In September Anthony arranged a 'church crawl' around Gloucestershire and Wiltshire and the alien beauty of chalk downland. In October we were invited to visit Exeter College, once our patron and still a constituent part of the patronage board that appoints the Rector. The Church was used in November for a concert (in aid of church funds) by the Oxford Girls' Choir, which reminded us what superb acoustics St Mary's has, and how well the organ is designed to take advantage of this. On Advent Sunday, the usual carol service was followed by mince pies and mulled wine served by the 20s & 30s group - one of their own initiatives to help us all to meet together over food and get to know each other better.

The Church has also hosted concerts by KAOS, the Oxford Concerto Orchestra, Adderbury Ensemble, and Kidlington Concert Brass. The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust used St Mary's for its AGM following evensong. It was open for Sunday teas throughout summer (a season which we try to stretch every year as the climate strives to shrink it). John Amor gave talks (both organised and impromptu) on the history of the building.

On a personal note, I have been grateful for the support of Joyce, and the advice of other ex-wardens during my first year in the job.

Bill Evershed

St Mary's, Hampton Poyle Report

Whilst I do not enjoy looking back at where we have been, rather than where we are going, the writing of this report requires a backward glance at what has happened within the life of the church and its community during 2008.

Like the weather experienced during the past year, the church also saw days of bright sunlight and also heavy clouds and darkness. Among the bright and joyous events we saw the marriage of Lydia and Andrew Gardner on a very warm and bright day at the end of August. Lydia is the daughter of Judith and John Baker. We also saw two baptisms: of Jessica Seddon on 13th April, Jessica being the grand-daughter of Nesbit Broadis, and of Morgan Jeacock on the 12th October, Morgan being the grand-daughter of Maureen and myself.

But as well as welcoming new members, we have regretfully had to say farewell to some old friends. In January we bid farewell to Jean Broadis the wife of Nesbit. Jean died just after Christmas 2007 and their daughter Carolyn died within a few days of her Mum. Jean had been associated with St Mary's for many years always there to offer support and friendship. In February we mourned the death of Maurice (Jim) Pike. Jim had been a friend of St Mary's acting as treasurer to the Appeal Fund when we carried out our last refurbishment programme. He also supported the functions which we held within the community. Joan Shaw sadly died later the same month. Joan had lived in Hampton Poyle when her husband Colin ran the Chemist on the Broadway in Kidlington; they later moved to Woodstock and then to Harrogate.

Together with our usual pattern of services on the first and third Sundays of the month we also celebrated the major festivals which were well attended, although there will always be room for more.

The weather for our Rogation Walk this year was gloriously sunny and was particularly enjoyable, as was the tea at Manor Farm afterwards hosted by Sandra and Harry Kerwood. Our thanks go to both them and their family and also to Doug Brand who provided the music during our walk. Our Songs of Praise in June was well attended and I believe it will become a regular pattern for the future.

On July 14th the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary held a Guild Office of celebration to commemorate John Keeble's sermon to the Assize at Oxford. His sermon was considered by many to be the beginning of the Oxford Movement. St Mary's at Hampton Poyle was used by members of the Oxford Movement.

In 2008 we brought our Harvest Festival forward to the beginning of September to avoid clashing with the 50th Anniversary celebrations at St John's. As we previously did in 2007, we held the supper in the church which was appreciated by the many who stayed after the service.

At the beginning of November a congregation of 22 gathered to remember lost loved ones in our annual memorial service. On Saturday 6th December we invited the children to come and help create the christingles. Unfortunately by the time the children arrived most of the christingles were made. This year we had a surplus of sweets, I wonder why? On the following Sunday, 37 gathered for our Christingle Service and a total of £151.45 was sent to the Children's Society. On the evening of 17th December a group of carol singers met to sing outside villagers' homes to raise an amazing £224 in aid of the Congo Disaster Fund. Thanks go to Doug Brand for his musical accompaniment on the euphonium, to Peggy for thawing them out with warming bowls of hot soup and to all who gave generously to this worthwhile cause. Our Carol Service on 21st December was well attended although we started late because yours truly had difficulty parking his car.

On April 29th we invited Lutfi and Ruby Radwan, a local poultry farmer and his wife from Hampton Gay, to visit St Mary's to talk about their faith as Muslims. This was very successful and demonstrated to the few attended how easy it is for people of different faiths to talk about their beliefs openly and rationally.

At the end of July we removed the unsafe Cypress trees, raised the crowns on the Lime and Sycamore trees and ground out the roots of the removed trees.

Looking forward to the future the committee has now agreed that we should site the proposed toilet within the church, and that we should proceed as quickly as possible to add this and a kitchen, together with more adequate heating, improved lighting and a pathway to the church

which would be wheelchair- and pushchair-friendly. In addition, we will attend to the perimeter wall around the churchyard, a new gate, hard standing for cars in front of the church and also those items raised in the quinquennial inspection. To this end we are awaiting a site visit to the church of our architect together with Ian Howdill, Chair of the Fabric Committee, to discuss our needs, obtain costings and establish lead times. With these costs we could then begin applying for grants from various agencies together with fund raising within our community. To this end during the past year we have held a Chocoholics Party, an Open Spring Garden, Village Open Gardens, a Fun Day and a Coffee Morning, which together raised over £1,700.

It has been a challenging year, but I feel that challenge has been met by all of you making this church and village a unique and special place. You are all rare jewels that shine and sparkle, whatever the weather, sunshine or rain, bright skies or dull ones. My thanks to you all, all too numerous to mention by name; the ladies who clean the church and arrange the flowers, those who cook delightful cakes and snacks for our various functions, those who mow the grass. All this hard work has made our church and churchyard a beacon, shining brightly. On your behalf I would like to say a special thank you to your church wardens Jean and Monica, and also to Cliff and Pam who turn out whatever the weather to play the organ, and the support which they give to us all. God Bless you all.

Jim Turner

St Mary's Bellringers' Report

The bells of St Mary's have rung for service on most Sundays and also on Tuesday evenings' practice. We have a very loyal band of 17 ringers and our learners are progressing very well. We rang for 13 weddings and welcomed 4 visiting parties. We have attended our Guild Branch Half-Yearly Meeting and AGM, of which Anthony Ellis is chairman. We staged our usual display at the Flower Festival.

As yet we have not received our 4 new ropes at a cost of about £700 due to manufacturer's delay. We hope to raise funds for these by holding a tower Open Day with bellringers providing teas in the refectory. This will be on Sunday June 14th, 3:00-5:00. Please do come along and visit the ringers up 34 steps followed by refreshments. All donations greatly received so that we can remain self-supporting.

We can report that ringing in Kidlington is in a very healthy state under the leadership of Ron Burgess, our Tower Captain and Ringing Master. Ron also takes learners to different towers where the bells are of different weights to ours, which is good for them.

T. 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. Anthony and Kathryn stayed in our link parish as part of Anthony's sabbatical this year. A major work this year was the setting up of the organisation ACHIVA, to share experience of practical, proven projects to tackle problems caused by HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on the benefits of small community-based projects. Their first primary activity was to organise a conference, held on Saturday 22nd November 2008, which brought together experts and volunteers to learn more about what is already being done and how successful schemes can be adapted and re-implemented in other areas.

Discussions have continued on the issues involved in working with **young people** in the community of Kidlington. Churches Together in Kidlington is becoming the focus group looking now towards supporting a student youthworker from Oxford Youthworks during their placement time for their training. Some money to support this has been committed from the churches, individuals and the District Council, and we await the result of our application.

Building relationships in the parish

Within the parish established groups for **children and young people** continue to develop and grow: Sunday School at St Mary's, and Junior Church at St John's. Children's workers in the parish met with Yvonne Morris, Diocesan Childrens Adviser, in March for an evening of sharing challenges and celebrating the joys of this work. **T.I.G. (Together in God)**, the parish youth group for 11 to 16 year olds enjoyed a joint Easter event with the Dorchester team and provided another thoughtful, fun and creative Christmas presentation and reflection for the parish. **St John's Under 5s** continues to provide a space for pre-school age children with their parents/carers to explore Christianity. Links are being developed with the Toddler Group at St Mary's.

A major event under this heading was the organisation of the weekend away at **Lee Abbey** in July 2008. Thirty-three adults and one young person came away to the beautiful setting of North Devon. Our subject to explore was the environment, '*For the Beauty of the Earth...*' and I believe that people benefited in many different ways, including: the wonderful hospitality of the community, the enthusiasm and generosity of our main speaker John Turner (and his wife Anne), time to be by themselves and with others, enjoying the wild and wonderful scenery... and more. In terms of the topic we explored, work remains to be done on how we continue to face the reality of the environmental challenge. A couple of quotes: 'Start small - every little helps... and talk about what we are doing'. 'Optimism and hope - we can do something'.

Welcome and hospitality was a focus of the Diocesan initiative of **Back to Church Sunday**, which was again observed by our churches in the parish around Harvest Thanksgiving on 28th September. The parish nurture/enquiry group **Travelling the Way** provided support this year for one adult and three young people exploring a commitment to faith. Three people from the group attended the Diocesan event **Living Faith**, which also fed into various discussions on Bishop John's priorities for the diocese, which began as Sharing Life+ and is now **Living Faith for the Future**.

Giving as Mission

The debate continues on how to integrate charitable giving into the parish strategy for mission. This year, in addition to the causes that are supported in other ways, eg by charity lunches and fundraising events, £82 was given to support the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

Exploring Christianity

Learning continues in various settings. There are fellowship groups and discussion groups, as well as the ecumenical Lent groups and two parish Quiet Days in Lent and Advent. Continuing this year is *Food for Thought*, the monthly lunch-time bible discussion group at St John's.

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.

It is important to say a huge thank you to members of the Outreach and Mission Committee 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 the members of the five mainstream Kidlington churches, worked hard through the year to promote ecumenical activity in the service of Christ and the local community. The officers were as follows. Chair: Dennis Chiles until the AGM in May then the Revd. Hilary Campbell; Hon. Secretary: Sue Mills (co-opted); Treasurer: Chris Robins. Anglican lay representatives on the Council were Catherine Button, Gail Nawrocki, Joan Townsend and Pat Whittington.

The Council met four times during the year, and the AGM was held on 13th May. In February a stimulating and productive Quiet Morning was held at Begbroke Priory, led by the Revd Dr Nick Wood, then Chair of Churches Together in Oxfordshire, and attended by 16 members from all the churches. Times of worship and quiet reflection linked discussions of where we are now, both as individual churches and in our relations with each other, and where we go from here as Churches Together in Kidlington. A number of new initiatives has resulted from that morning.

In January, the centenary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity saw a United Service at St John's, led by the Revd Hilary Campbell using the published CTBI worship material, the annual Fellowship Meal at St John's, when the speaker was the Revd. David Cooper from Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford, the catering being provided by St Thomas More Church, and daily lunchtime prayers held at each of the churches in turn.

In Lent, ecumenical study groups were again organised, using the York Courses material on 'The Lord's Prayer: praying it, meaning it, living it'. Four groups met, with 35 people participating in a group on at least one occasion and an additional 6 people purchasing the course book to follow it at home. Unfortunately, only one group was fully ecumenical, with participants from all 5 churches, but the other groups nevertheless had interesting discussions from different denominational viewpoints. The Good Friday ecumenical walk of witness took place as usual.

There was a united Pentecost service at the Methodist Church and a successful Holiday Club in August, attended by 26 children and with a lot of helpers, including teenagers. The International Church was involved in this, with its pastor leading it.

Members of all the churches were involved in Christian Aid Week in May, and the Flower Festival, now held in September instead of July, closed with a united Songs of Praise service on the Sunday evening.

In place of both an Advent united service and carol singing in Sainsbury's foyer it was agreed to participate for the first time in BBC Oxford's 'Big Christmas Carol', which the Cooperative Store in Kidlington agreed to host, providing mince pies and coffee afterwards, for which we were very grateful. Approximately 150 people participated and although certain technical and practical issues need to be addressed if it is repeated in the future, it was generally agreed to have been a great occasion for reaching out to the local community.

Discussions continued throughout the year about the support for a student Community Youth Worker on placement for 12-14 hours per week for 3 years from September 2009, with grants to be applied for and matched funding to be provided from the churches.

Monthly short services on Sunday afternoons have continued to be taken at Glebe House by the different churches on a rota basis, ably coordinated by Pam Cooper, including an Advent service led by Malcolm Bromhall of the Methodist Church and supported by members of other churches.

The AGM agreed that Kidlington's Women's World Day of Prayer Branch should come under the auspices of CTK and its local committee act as a subgroup of CTK.

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 committee remains focused on the careful balance between the present and the future.

This year, our income has exceeded our expenditure to a small extent, as set out in the accounts in this booklet. This has been achieved through careful management, some unexpected windfalls and a positive trend in planned giving, but the underlying longer-term view is still precarious.

As in previous years, congregations have been encouraged to formalise their giving into a regular monthly amount and to 'gift aid' their contributions, and the response to this has been encouraging.

We have benefited from some windfalls that will not be repeatable in coming years, notably a lower than expected Diocesan quota and a favourable resolution to a long-running issue with a utilities provider.

On the downside, we have had to make sizeable unplanned investments in the fabric of our buildings, notably Andersons Close and the refectory in St Mary's Kidlington.

Overall though, the finances have held up well, and the committee felt able to recommend a sum of £2,000 to be made available for mission. The remaining surplus has been allocated to the quota reserve. This practice represents good management as our quota costs are set to increase sharply in coming years. This is 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.

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. We have also started to explore the financial pressures that will arise from the long-term maintenance needs of our three churches.

In closing, I would like to record my thanks to everyone who has been involved in working to steward our resources: to Michael Ling for his work as treasurer; to Margaret Day, for her work as Planned Giving secretary; to Trish Friedemann and other who spend many hours counting cash; and to the members of the Finance Committee.

Robert Buckeldee

Giving Committee Report

The Giving Committee is a newly formed committee of the PCC. The remit of the Committee is to develop and monitor 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 committee for the short, medium and long term.

The Committee has divided its work into three areas. Organising fundraising events, increasing congregational awareness of the parish planned giving scheme and tracking appropriate organisations and trusts that can be approached for funding building development.

The year saw two major parish fundraising events. The family fun evening and barbecue in the rectory garden in late August was a great success, particularly because we were blessed with the warmest evening of the whole summer. Thanks the hard work of Tilly Evershed and Janet Warren and a large number of helpers, a happy time was had by all and a profit of £1,473 was made. In November a concert given by Oxford Girls' Choir raised a further £1,118. Following the success of these events the committee has already put in place a variety of fundraising events for 2009 and is looking for new ideas for money raising projects in the future.

The committee has tried to promote the Planned Giving Scheme and Gift Aiding by having a regular notice in the weekly news sheet. Last March newcomers to our congregations were invited to a wine and cheese evening at which they were introduced to the many outreach activities that take place through our churches and given an explanation of parish finances. The evening provoked a very useful and wide ranging discussion about both money and parish life in general.

As we look towards financing the future building plans for all our three churches we are investigating the possibility of applying for grants from Charitable Trusts. To help in this the PCC has bought a DVD which gives information about all the many and varied trusts so that it will be possible to select and apply to those that are the most appropriate to our needs.

My thanks to all those on the Giving Committee who have worked so hard in this first year. If we can continue to see an increase our income, we all, as a Christian body can look forward towards fulfilling our responsibilities to the parish of Kidlington and Hampton Poyle and responding to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the wider world.

Joyce Morris

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.

St John's Hall Church continues to provide a valuable resource for the Parish and the wider community. During 2008, the Hall hosted a wide range of activities, including fitness clubs, martial arts, dancing and weight-watching groups, together with an increase in our occasional bookings for events such as birthday parties. The year has also seen a wide range of events as part of the St John's Hall Church 50th anniversary celebrations, noting in particular our successful and very well attended patronal festival weekend activities.

The committee is also delighted that the Hall continues to host Parish activities for young people, notably the T.I.G. (Together In God) group, who meet on Sunday evenings in school term time plus the Under 5's group on Wednesday afternoons; along with activities for those that are young at heart, namely the St John's Retired Members Club, who meet on the first Wednesday of each month with members from all over the village.

The committee remains indebted to Margaret Day who, as Hall Booking Secretary, looks after all our Hall users' needs efficiently and professionally and we again thank her for her tireless support over the year.

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

A 50 year old building will always give rise to various maintenance challenges and while nothing of major structural concern has presented itself over the year, we have continued to keep the fabric committee busy with repairs to leaking roofs and blown-down fence panels throughout the year. The committee notes its grateful thanks and appreciation to the fabric committee for coordinating these works during the year.

Inside the Hall, we arranged for a much needed servicing of our Hall heaters to ensure we could provide reliable heating throughout the year. We hope all our users, community and church, now feel more comfortable in the Hall during the colder times of the year.

As outlined in last year's report, the committee has revised its constitution such that the Hall Management Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC with the Hall Management accounts now included in the PCC accounts as a new designated fund. The revised constitution was accepted by the PCC during 2008.

Ted Mobley continues to manage the day-to-day transactions and supplies a quarterly summary of income / expenditure to the Parish treasurer, Michael Ling, so that he can maintain his PCC records throughout the year. The committee thanks Ted for all his diligent support of the Hall's financial activities throughout the year.

Having spent much of 2008 celebrating the last 50 years of St John's Hall Church, we must now look to the future use of the building. Working together with St John's Committee, we have been considering a number of ideas and architect's drawings for options in developing the building to meet the future Parish and community needs. We will continue to work closely with St John's Committee, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the PCC as we move into the next stages of turning these ideas into detailed plans and costs and then start to think about how we turn our dreams for St John's Hall Church into reality.

So with these exciting challenges ahead of us, it only remains for us to thank all users of the Hall for their custom and support over the last year and to 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 both the parish and the community.

Mark Christodoulou and Rosemary Gardner

Fabric Report

St Mary's, Kidlington

The redecoration work on the Refectory was completed following the lead theft. The w.c.'s have been refurbished, as has the kitchen thanks to a generous donation by Bilham Woods in memory of Judy Woods.

Proposals to repair and clean woodwork around the Chancel are still planned. A great deal of thought has been given to the role of the Children's Chapel, which no longer fulfils this purpose and is mostly used as a store. The general consensus is that the screen should be removed and the whole area opened up as a place of reflection. What to do with the contents continues to be debated. A good clearout in the spring clean is planned.

As is mentioned elsewhere there is continuing anxiety on the condition of the roof mainly the slated areas. The quinquennial architect is preparing a report. There is clearly some heavy expenditure in the future not only on this but also on the heating system, which needs renewing certainly as regards the radiators.

St John's, Kidlington

The ideas for expanding and improving the building are at an advanced stage. The architect is about to submit his drawings to Cherwell District Council for planning comments as a first stage, after which he will make a full planning application.

St Mary's, Hampton Poyle

Following a lengthy period of debate it has been decided to incorporate the proposed toilets and kitchen within the envelope of the building. The architect is embarking upon preparation of sketches illustrating this.

29 Andersons Close

Following Jason's departure it was decided to carry out a major refit of the curate's house. The policy has been to redecorate and re-carpet at every change of occupant but this change demanded a new bathroom and kitchen fit-out which has enabled us to let the property at market values and recover the costs of refurbishment.

The above brief reports concentrate on 'capital' projects; what has not been reported are the continuing 'repairs and renewals' activities costing about £7,000 per annum. This is a modest sum when considering the amount of 'plant' the PCC is responsible for.

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 Covenant Report

There were just three meetings of the Anglican/Methodist group during the year 2008. The Revd Hilary Campbell preached at the Methodist Church in June but there was no reciprocal visit from the Methodist team.

The Revd Dr Martin Wellings left Kidlington in the summer to take up the post of Superintendent Minister at the Wesley Memorial Church in Oxford. The Revd Jonathan Todd, of Islip, took over the role of Minister of Kidlington Methodist Church while Malcolm Bromhall, the Pastoral Worker, moved into the Kidlington Manse.

Members of the Group attended the Methodist Circuit study morning in Kidlington in November, led by The Revd Jonathan Todd. This event provided an excellent opportunity to meet a wide group of people and to gain a better understanding of the Methodist Church.

There were no joint social events during the year, in part because of the impact of Dr Wellings' departure for Oxford.

Janet Warren

The Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held at St Mary's Church, Kidlington
on Wednesday, 29th April, 2009 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 2009/2010
4. To approve and confirm the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd April, 2008 at St John's Hall 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 2009/2010
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 2008, 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 2010
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.