



**The Parish Church of
Saint George the Martyr
Waterlooville**



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2007**

**The Reverend Mike Sheffield,
The Vicarage, 5 Deanswood Drive, Waterlooville PO7 7RR**

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**THERE WILL BE A ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING ON SUNDAY 20th APRIL 2008 IN THE CHURCH
AFTER THE 10 am EUCHARIST**

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
to elect two Churchwardens to serve for one year
4. MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS
Report by Electoral Roll Officer
5. Minutes of 2007 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 2 Deanery Synod representatives
8. Election of 3 PCC members
9. Election of Sidespersons
10. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 29th April 2007 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. There were 58 persons present. The Parish Priest, Fr Mike Sheffield, was in the Chair.

1. **WELCOME:** Fr Mike extended a warm welcome to everyone to the APCM at St George's. He explained that there are two meetings, the first for the parishioners and the second for the congregation.
2. **APOLOGIES** were received from Adrienne Bridger, Margaret and Susan Deal, Jaye Warren, Anne Willoughby, Norman and Audrey Linney, Janet and John Johnson, Sarah and Keith Lewis, Tasha Cook, Anna Richardson, Lesley Handy, Sue Palmer, Fiona Ross, Kiera Gregg, Sarah Hewett and Pat Winter.
3. **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:** although in this parish we elect Churchwardens to serve for 4 years they still have to be re-elected yearly. There are therefore 2 nominations from Tony Rice-Oxley, proposed by Amanda Jones and seconded by David Palmer and from Margaret Symonds, proposed by Pam Dinneen and seconded by Jean Brice. The election of these two churchwardens was agreed unanimously. Fr Mike gave a vote of thanks for the huge amount of work that the churchwardens do during the year to make sure that St George's runs smoothly and efficiently.
4. **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS:** Rosemary Monk who is the Electoral Roll Officer said that there were 164 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of whom 54 were not resident within the parish. 8 were removed during the year through death and no-one officially asked to be removed from the roll. We have a thriving active electoral roll and we all need to encourage new people to go on the roll and any over 16 year olds. Rosemary has just been renewing the electoral roll which has to be done throughout the entire country every 6 years.
5. **MINUTES OF THE 2006 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING:** There being no amendments, the minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Chris Culley and seconded by Colin Monk and agreed unanimously.
6. **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT:** The financial overview for the year is included on the back of the Treasurer's report in the APCM report and full copies of the

financial statements are at the back of the church for anyone wanting these.

Carol said that as with the previous year, 2006's finances have been challenging with expenditure again exceeding income.

Without the generous donations of individuals and the hard work and dedication of fundraisers, the PCC would not be able to keep St George's Church and Hall running. It is hoped that where possible, those donations are reviewed regularly in line with rising costs and inflation.

Although we rely on the income from investments, we are constantly having to consider realising some of these funds. This would, of course, have an impact on monthly income.

To end, I would again like to thank our Auditors for examining the Accounts which will be signed off by Mr Feri Eshraghi of Morris Palmer on his return to work in due course. In the meantime, the acting independent auditor has confirmed the Accounts are in order. A copy of her covering letter is included in the full version of the Accounts.

Fr Mike said that the job of looking after the accounts for the church is a mammoth one. Carol does a fantastic job backed up by the Finance Committee. A big thank you to Carol and the Finance Committee. There were no questions on the accounts for Carol.

7. **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 11 times over the last year. The PCC is made up of Fr Mike, Chairman, 2 ex officio members Jane Cook as Secretary and Carol McKells as Treasurer, 2 Churchwardens, Tony Rice-Oxley and Margaret Symonds, 2 Deanery Synod representatives, Adrienne Bridger and Wendy Pearce, 9 elected PCC members – Adina Burton, David Cavey, Sandra Hewett, Yvonne Jones, Ian and Julie Long, Colin Monk, Anne Morgan and Denise Rosser and 2 co-opted members Dick Handy, Pastoral Chairman and Richard Spurgeon, Hall Chairman.

Goodbye and thank you to Sandra, Adina and Anne who have served for 2 or 3 years. Also goodbye to Ian and Julie Long who are looking to move on and worship in a different church. We wish them well and thank them for their work at St George's. We therefore need 5 new members to serve on the PCC, 3 for 3 years, 1 for 2 years and 1 for 1 year. 3 people filled in forms and volunteered to join the PCC – Richard Handy, proposed by Colin Monk, seconded by David Palmer,

David Palmer, proposed by Dick Handy, seconded by Margaret Symonds, Mabel Maginn, proposed by Margaret Symonds, seconded by Dick Handy. Fr Mike said we still need 2 more people to stand. Julia Spurgeon volunteered, proposed by Jane Rice-Oxley, seconded by Pam Dinneen and Abigail Morgan who only wishes to stand for one year before going to University, proposed by Lynda Sheffield and seconded by Mary Hutchings. Wendy Pearce said how nice it was to see a young person on the PCC – the first time in all her experience of the PCC.

8. **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS:** Thanks were expressed to all the Sidespersons currently on the rotas. Dick Handy read out the list of sidespersons and Fr Mike asked for the list to be accepted in its entirety – proposed by David Palmer and seconded by Anne Morgan. Fr Mike asked whether there was anyone else who would like to be added to the sidespersons list. There were no nominations.

Rosemary Monk spoke about the Baptism visitors which has been set up this year. One visit to the family before the baptism to answer any questions they might have and then be in church on the Sunday for the baptism. Families are really pleased to see you and it's not an arduous job. Need a few more people to join the team. Training will be given plus a pack to anyone interested. If anyone is interested please see Rosemary.

9. **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

Churchwardens: Full report in the APCM report. Tony said the only thing he needed to add was that finance is always uppermost in their minds. Made a huge push recently for people to consider their giving. A big thank you to those who have already increased their giving. If you haven't already done so I would urge you to think about this. There are several things we need to do but we don't really have the finances. Tony also urged people to let them know if there is anything around the church that needs doing.

Church Hall: running the Church Hall is not an easy task. Thank you to Richard Spurgeon for taking on the responsibility along with the hall committee. No questions were asked.

Mothers' Union: thriving.

Pastoral Committee: Andrew Clark said that mention had been made in church this morning about the successful Music Festival with 1400 people coming through the doors. He would like to point out

that over 1000 people a year come through the church hall through the University of the Third Age. This was set up 18 months ago in Waterlooville and originated in France around 1880 for retired people. There are a huge number of groups, including German, Tai Chi, poetry, French conversation to mention just a few. Andrew would like to know whether there could be some kind of service for them. Fr Mike said he would get Dick to put it on the agenda for the next Pastoral Committee.

Youth Coordinator and Child Protection: Sandra Hewett does both these jobs. Adina said that given the news in the last week it is a very important job to make sure that everyone who works with children in the church is cleared. Fr Mike gave a vote of thanks at this point to everyone in St George's who works with the youth groups.

Church Watch and Holy Dusters: Adina would like more people to volunteer for the Church Watch especially now that the church is open every day. Fr Mike said that if you are going to Asda to do your shopping pop into the church before you go to Asda and again afterwards just to make sure everything is ok.

Ladies Group, George's Men and Tweenies: these groups are all thriving in the church.

Walsingham Cell: thank you to Yvonne for all she does. Yvonne said she is sad to say that the Cell is not thriving with only 15 members. The Cell come together to meditate and use the rosary in a meaningful way to say thank you. Open to everyone who would like to join.

Church Flower Fund: Yvonne said they are struggling money wise. It takes a lot of money to decorate the church. She uses the market for the flowers which is cheaper than going to a wholesalers. There is £44 in the bank and £25 in petty cash for the next year so far. Any money donated through Carol can be gift aided. Thank you to Yvonne and her team for making the church look so beautiful week on week.

Bible Reading Fellowship: Linda Wainwright said the Bible Reading Fellowship provide a short text from the Bible together with notes. These come out 3 times a year. She can get copies any time of the year.

Deanery Synod: Adrienne is away and Wendy said that sadly she has been unable to attend any of the meetings this year as she has been away on each occasion but Adrienne has kept her up to date.

Koforidua - Winifred said she was shocked to see that item (c) to set up a proper stipend fund and payment system for the clergy who presently have to collect their stipend in person each month, sometimes travelling all the way to the diocesan office only to discover there are insufficient funds available to pay them has been shelved until costing is available. Tony said that he is Treasurer on the Deanery Synod so knows about this. This is the order in which the people in Ghana wished to proceed. Most of the churches in the deanery have given money towards it. You will see that this morning at the luncheon the raffle is being held in aid of Koforidua and Fr Mike said that in July there will be open house at the Vicarage with a raffle for this. Margaret explained that the whole of the Havant Deanery is linked to Koforidua but we support a church in a different parish – this is historical.

Magazine Committee: Fr Mike said he would like to pay tribute to Bill Hutchings for all he did – the magazine is what it is today because of what Bill did for it. John Johnson and his editorial team are now producing a magazine every two months. Tony said that he envisages the future of our magazine as being a free magazine and would like to see 1000 copies being pushed through letterboxes financed entirely by advertisements from about 2009 onwards.

Wendy Clark said that she would like magazines topped up in the rack in the church hall by the hatch as this is where visitors get their copy from. Wendy Pearce said that this is where some of the congregation collect their copy when available. Thanks were expressed to the Magazine Committee.

Servers: big thank you to the servers for their dedication. The Bishop was very complimentary about them last week.

Sunday School: big thank you to Julia Spurgeon for all she has done over the last 15 years. Julia is now concentrating more on the music and there are two team now in charge of Sunday School.

Youth Club/Link Group: Wendy Pearce said that she was sure she speaks for everyone when she says that she really values the input of the youth at the services. Yvonne Jones said it is lovely to see the young children looking so comfortable in church. They understand there is nothing to worry about coming to church.

Choir/Band: thanks to the choir and the band for all they do. Julia said they are changing choir practice night to a Thursday 6.30-7.30

pm to see if it attracts new people. Thanks should be expressed to Andrew, our organ scholar who turns up regularly. Yvonne Jones said how lovely the music is at St George's.

Social and Fundraising: They organise a huge amount of events during the year. It's nice to have the fellowship as well as the fundraising. Thank you to everyone involved with that. Please remember to support the Summer Fete which is taking place at the end of the music festival week.

100 Club: Colin said please keep contributing. Although not everyone is lucky it brings in a lot of money.

Traidcraft: Pam Dinneen reminded everyone that there are catalogues at the back of church and she is happy to take orders. Fair Trade refreshments are available all the time in the hall. Please keep supporting Fair Trade.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** Fr Mike asked if everyone is happy if we ask Feri Eshraghi from Morris Palmer to be our independent examiner again. A letter of thanks will be sent to them for doing the accounts this year. Agreed unanimously.

11. **COMMENTS FROM PARISH PRIEST:**
Richard Spurgeon asked Fr Mike to explain about his sabbatical. He said this will take place in the autumn and he will be leaving St George's for 10 Sundays. Every 15 years a priest is entitled to a sabbatical and this has to be suggested by the Archdeacon and Bishop. Half the time will be spent working on a paper "Why is it people need to go to places like Walsingham ". The second half will be a relaxing holiday with Lynda in New Zealand.

African Child Trust

Rachel Palmer wondered whether it would be possible for the young people at St George's to sponsor their own child. Tony said this was a wonderful idea but she would need to collect £150 each year with a guarantee for 4 years. The Youth Club already help to support a child. He would talk more to Rachel about it. There are photos on the board at the back of church.

Tony proposed a vote of thanks to Fr Mike and Lynda. He said the two of them are a driving force for all of us. Thank you so much to them both for all they do.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees/groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Church Attendance

There were 156 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of whom 63 were not resident within the parish. No changes were made to the roll during 2007. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2007, was 90 adults and 5 children including weekday attendances, but this number increased at festivals.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 10 times during the year, with an average attendance of 78%. Fabric, Finance, Pastoral, Kairos, Social and Fundraising and Hall sub-committees continued to meet in the interim, to enable items to be discussed in more detail, and reported back to the full PCC. The PCC will continue to invite outgoing Churchwardens to remain on the PCC for a further year to provide continuity.

Comprehensive budget accounts continue to be handed out at the PCC meetings when the Treasurer is on hand to answer any questions.

We have supported over 21 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £612.04 to the Children's Society (a large part of which came from a very successful Christingle Service on Christmas Eve), and continued support of four children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included Naomi House, Biblelands, USPG, Bishop's Lent Appeal, Mission Aviation, Koforidua, Cathedral Development Appeal, Macmillan Cancer Support, Leprosy Mission, Away From It All (AFIA), Sense, St George's Baghdad (£616.65), St Lukes Hospital for the Clergy, Canine Partners, 2 Saints Centres, Bible Society, Salvation Army and Brooke Hospital for Sick Animals. Some of these charities were supported by the Wednesday Coffee Morning collections. Money was constantly being raised for church funds over the year, in particular £2511 at the Summer Fete, £1798.27 at the Christmas Bazaar, £3250 from the St George's Charity Shop and £3610.76 from the sale of plants, bulbs and votives throughout the year.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders has increased to £32,583.05, excluding tax. The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £8,350.50. £756, excluding tax, was raised on the St George's Day Gift Day. Contributions on the collection plate raised £1,777.58.

£88,297.94 was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St. George's Church, including the full contribution to the parish share of £48,441, an increase of 6.46%. Our remaining fund balances are invested with the CBF Church of England Investment and Deposit funds.

Dr Feri Eshraghi, FCA, examined the accounts for 2006 and very kindly agreed to continue for 2007.

The following has happened during the course of the year and most will be written about in more detail in the following reports:

- Fr Mike and Lynda were away from St George's for 3 months as Fr Mike was on sabbatical and we were lucky to have Fr Ray to step in
- The Parish breakfasts were still very popular and will continue
- Kairos – several services have been held around the partnership churches of Christ Church, Portsdown, All Saints, Denmead, Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn, St John's Purbrook and St George's this year. A successful Kairos Barn Dance was held in October at St George's.
- Waterloo Music Festival – another very successful festival was held in June
- A Christmas concert was held on 29th November with 4 schools taking part. This year there was no switching on of the Christmas lights ceremony in Waterloo but it was decided to go ahead with the concert as it is very good outreach and we had a very good attendance.
- Pastoral Visitors Groups for baptism and post funeral visits continued
- The Travelling Nativity again went round the parish during advent and was very popular. A big thank you to Sue Andrews for knitting a new set this year and for continuing to knit angels for each family to keep.

On behalf of the PCC

Carol McKells, Treasurer
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed: _____
The Reverend Mike Sheffield

April 2008

Treasurer's Report 2007

Incorporating all the Church group finances with the main Church and Hall Accounts, the final figures show an overspend of £3720. If depreciation at 2% amounts to £3252, the overspend reduces to £469.

For a second year St George's hosted the Waterloo Music Festival and the PCC received a very generous donation of £525 from that source. Other major donations received included £593.56 from the 100 Club and £400 from the Social and Fundraising Committee. Also donated to the General Account was £400 from Friday Coffee Morning fundraising, £520 from the Charities Aid, £410 sponsorship donation and £1200 towards replacing Church Hall heaters.

Donations from Planned Giving exceeded the budget by over £1360 for which we received £8350 in Gift Aid tax recovery (a slight increase on 2006 of £116). Interest on bank and building society accounts amounted to a modest £16 and the value of PCC investments amounted to £66,285, for which £2,558 was received as dividends. Dividends earned on the Church Hall Deposit Account were re-invested and the current value of that account now stands at £6,286.

The fete, bazaar and other fundraising again exceeded expectations by over £3,800, as did the sale of plants etc by over £2,000. Charity giving exceeded £4,600 and we have supported a wide range of Charities both at home and overseas. Funds generated by the Wednesday Coffee Mornings have also supported a variety of Charities together with donations to the main PCC and Church Hall Accounts.

The budget for 2007 was again very tight. It is always difficult to predict income based on the generosity of those who support St George's Church, against the knowledge that expenditure will always increase each year. Forming a realistic budget will always be a difficult task which will hopefully guide us through the year which I feel happened in 2007. My thanks go to the Fabric and Finance Committee for all the work they put in and also for the support of the PCC.

On behalf of St George's Church, my thanks are due to Feri Eshraghi of Jackson Green Chartered Accountants for examining the Accounts for another year without charge. A summary of the Accounts is shown overleaf and the full version is displayed on the Church notice board. Copies are available on request.

Carol Mckells
Honorary Treasurer to the PCC

| ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE – OVERVIEW OF ACCOUNTS TO YEAR END 2007 | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | UNRESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | 2007 YEAR TOTAL | YEAR'S BUDGET | 2006 YEAR TOTAL |
| | | | | For PCC Account | |
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Planned Giving S/Orders | 20,956.00 | | 20,956.00 | 20,435.00 | 18,725.25 |
| Gift Aid Envelopes | 11,687.05 | 15.00 | 11,702.05 | 13,587.00 | 12,350.58 |
| Gift Aid Tax | 8,350.60 | | 8,350.60 | 8,152.00 | 8,234.47 |
| General Collections | 1,777.58 | | 1,777.58 | 1,800.00 | 1,951.63 |
| Gift Days | 746.00 | | 746.00 | 1,000.00 | 511.40 |
| Donations and Appeals | 5,711.20 | 1,086.43 | 6,797.63 | 3,000.00 | 5,883.13 |
| Bookstall | 420.20 | | 420.20 | 260.00 | 233.00 |
| Parish Magazine Advertising | 516.34 | | 516.34 | 420.00 | 284.00 |
| Parish Magazine Sales | 477.38 | | 477.38 | 800.00 | 562.99 |
| Weddings/Funerals | 4,174.00 | 260.00 | 4,434.00 | 3,500.00 | 5,222.00 |
| Fete, Bazaar, Fundraising | 10,675.06 | 14.00 | 10,689.06 | 6,880.00 | 9,109.01 |
| Sales | 3,500.76 | | 3,500.76 | 1,500.00 | 1,911.87 |
| Photocopying Income | 46.96 | | 46.96 | 100.00 | 78.84 |
| Income from Investments/ Bank etc | 2,568.11 | 6.04 | 2,574.15 | 2,000.00 | 2,393.62 |
| Other Funds (Charities) | 197.30 | 4,106.64 | 4,303.94 | No budget | 3,662.46 |
| Refunds | Not used for 2007 | | | | 434.13 |
| Hall Lettings/Fundraising | 8,824.87 | | 8,824.87 | No budget | 6,458.06 |
| Youth Group Activities | | 3,046.78 | 3,046.78 | No budget | 2,007.25 |
| Ex.ord Income | 10,615.28 | | 10,615.28 | No budget | Nil |
| TOTALS | 91,244.69 | 8,534.89 | 99,779.58 | 63,434.00 | 80,013.69 |

| ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE – OVERVIEW OF ACCOUNTS TO YEAR END 2007 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | UNRESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | 2007 YEAR TOTAL | YEAR'S BUDGET | 2006 YEAR TOTAL |
| | | | | For PCC Account | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Parish Share | 48,441.00 | | 48,441.00 | 48,441.00 | 45,501.00 |
| Gas/Elec/Water/Insurance | 2,531.48 | | 2,531.48 | 2,600.00 | 2,418.39 |
| Church & Grounds Maint. | 726.32 | 250.00 | 976.32 | 1,800.00 | 1,375.04 |
| Clergy Expenses | 2,793.49 | | 2,793.49 | 3,000.00 | 2,874.14 |
| Upkeep of Services | 228.20 | 1,444.27 | 1,672.47 | 2,000.00 | 3,548.21 |
| Magazine & Bookstall Expenses | 686.30 | | 686.30 | 600.00 | 833.35 |
| Piano & Organ tune | 672.24 | | 672.24 | 500.00 | 215.21 |
| Honoraria & Salaries | 4,214.70 | 30.00 | 4,244.70 | 3,500.00 | 5,842.00 |
| Administration | 1,640.16 | 161.03 | 1,801.19 | 2,000.00 | 2,296.16 |
| Photocopier costs | 675.91 | | 675.91 | 620.00 | 588.59 |
| Assigned Fees | 1,794.00 | | 1,794.00 | 900.00 | 2,085.00 |
| Capitation Fee | 60.00 | | 60.00 | 45.00 | 60.00 |
| Fees to Fundraisers | 735.91 | | 735.91 | 600.00 | 579.63 |
| Ex.Ord Outgoing | 13,494.70 | | 13,494.70 | No budget | Nil |
| Hall Running Costs | 10,219.44 | | 10,219.44 | No budget | 4,465.53 |
| Hall Depreciation @ 2% | 3,252.00 | | 3,252.00 | No budget | 3,318.00 |
| Youth Group Activities | | 2,870.51 | 2,870.51 | No budget | 2,381.49 |
| Costs of fetes & other events | 1,915.29 | | 1,915.29 | No budget | 1,927.04 |
| Giving to Charities | 880.00 | 3,788.55 | 4,613.55 | No budget | 5,233.30 |
| Upkeep of PCC Property | | 50.00 | 50.00 | | |
| TOTALS | 94,961.14 | 8,539.36 | 103,500.50 | 66,606.00 | 85,542.08 |

Churchwardens Report 2007

2007 was a challenging year for St George's. We hosted the second Waterloo Music Festival, our Priest had a 3 month sabbatical and we continued to enjoy a great many social and fundraising activities.

The year has seen our Sunday School grow. With a current membership of about 15 it is good to see 10 of these as regular attenders. The youth club remains popular with the number fairly constant at 25 and the Link group is increasing in numbers. Many thanks to all those who give up their time to organise these activities.

Our various groups have been very active during the year. From Tweenies to George's Men, Mothers Union to Thursday market. Our social activities cover a wide range of events.

We are pleased to report that the congregation at St George's continues to grow. However numbers at midnight communion and Easter Day were slightly down on previous years. This seems to be quite dependant upon when Easter falls and upon which day of the week Christmas falls. Third Sundays, when youth are encouraged to attend, provide a very full church. In the sabbatical months of October and November the Youth club presided over the presentations giving them a full and active role in the service which they appreciated.

Our social calendar was packed with a variety of interesting and enterprising activities many of which raised much needed funds. Beginning the year with the West End Premiere show, we also had a travelling supper, a Strawberry Sparkle and a dog race evening with an excellent curry. We continue to provide teas and coffees on several days of the week and the quarterly church breakfast is very popular. We teamed up with our other Kairos partnership churches in September to host a barn dance. One new development is a monthly film club which provides a venue for showing a popular film with a break for tea and biscuits.

2007 was a most successful year for fundraising. Apart from the standard activities such as the bazaar and summer fete, the "shop" provided a huge boost to funds raising over £3,000. Grateful thanks are due to the many people who helped with this successful fund raiser. Any report on fundraising would have to include the fantastic work done by our plant sales team. Standing outside in all weathers they manage to make a huge contribution to our fundraising efforts (though their figures are obscured within the "sales" heading of the annual report).

The church building is ageing. Rebuilt in 1970 it is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Movement of a picture from the wall shows the fading paintwork and several cracks are beginning to appear in the stonework. The two large fore and aft cracks along the floor are beginning to cause worries and will have to receive a professional investigation in the near future. 2008 sees the quinquennial inspection and the architects may well insist on works being carried out in these areas. We have renewed the closing mechanisms on one of the front doors and repaired many damaged glass panes. Our grounds are attractive and well used in the summer months. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the teams of church cleaners and church grounds maintenance who give of their time to keep these areas up to the mark.

As mentioned the church hosts the Waterloo Music Festival and received income from the hire of the church. This year saw a magnificent programme of music ranging from a string quartet to local choirs, a rock evening (during which the entire church was stripped of all pews for the first time since 1970) and a fantastic Last Night of the Proms. We are very proud to host these events from the WMF and look forward to continuing to do so.

We have teamed up with our fellow partnership churches and the Churchwardens and Priests meet regularly to exchange best practice and to organise joint social and worship events. This is one result coming out of the Kairos initiative.

During the sabbatical we were very fortunate to have the services of Fr Ray Chapman who kept all the regular services going, as well as covering other worship activities, such as the Bishops initiative in having a regular weekly prayer hour during Advent.

The church hall continues to thrive as a centre for church activities as well as a centre for outreach. Under new management the regular events have been supplemented by others so that it is quite hard to book a date now without a clash occurring! However the hall is rapidly approaching its centenary and some hard decisions will have to be made soon as to its future. A committee has been set up to discuss this and to produce a plan for the next 100 years!

It goes without saying that there are a great many people to be thanked. The church would not keep going without the small band of volunteers dedicated to organising social events, cleaning the church, and assisting as Sidesmen, Servers, Choir, Band, Verger, Sacristan, Organist, Flower arrangers, various committee members, PCC and many more, far too many to mention by name.

No Churchwardens report would be complete without reference to our financial situation. In essence this was a really good year with incredible fundraising figures and an approximate balance in our expectation of giving. Giving to our selected charities in 2007 was £4600 which equates to approximately 15% of our general giving. Our final profit or loss is adversely affected this year by the hall accounts where new fires had to be bought at a cost of some £6000 (less some very generous donations), and the ever present hall depreciation which was £3252 this year.

It will always be essential for Churchwardens to encourage their congregations to consider an increase in their regular giving each year and this year is no exception. It is easy to do nothing, particularly when one is giving by standing order, as this involves an instruction to the bank which often gets put off to another day. Please consider doing this if you have not actioned any change for this year.

The success of any church is very dependant upon it's clergy and here we are very lucky to have the services of Fr Mike and Fr Ray. Mike is active in all areas and it is no coincidence that year-on-year figures for attendance are on the increase with the exciting and different services organised. We are grateful that Mike is well supported by Fr Ray. Finally we say a big thank you to Lynda Sheffield for her support and encouragement to both Mike and the congregation.

Both Churchwardens would like to say thank you to the congregation for their support over the past year and we trust that this lengthy report has covered all aspects of our church's life.

Tony Rice-Oxley / Margaret Symonds

St George's Church Hall Report

As Chairman of the hall committee I am pleased to report to the Annual Parish Church Meeting. May I start by offering a series of heartfelt thanks. To Viv the hall cleaner who has continued to provide a dedicated and valuable service. Many will know that Viv has a fabulous routine visiting and cleaning the hall thoroughly first thing in the morning. She is often my eyes and ears, letting me know of issues that require attention. The committee and I are extremely grateful. Thank you, Viv.

Thanks also to 2 particular members of the committee. Anne Willoughby has kindly continued as bookings manager and is the central contact for those enquiries. David Cavey has taken on a huge administrative load dealing with invoicing, banking and accounting. Thank you, Anne and David.

Thanks also to the other members of the Hall committee, David Palmer, Colin Monk, Denise Rosser and Julia Spurgeon.

The hall has settled a number of accounts for repairs this year. The largest being for the replacement of two of the gas fires in the main hall. The committee is very grateful for the financial donations received towards that work. During the year there were two separate repairs to the roof following slippage of slate tiles. Despite these expenses the hall has 'broken even' this year.

The committee aspires to a financial surplus and to be in a position to make a net monetary contribution to the wider Parish finances. Sadly again this year that has not been possible. This should not be mistaken for not contributing to the Parish. The hall provides a serviced meeting place for regular Youth events, coffee mornings, the Church fete and Christmas Bazaar and, through it's flexible pricing structure, it encourages positive outreach and charity activities.

The PCC is quite properly resolved to considering the longer term future of the Hall over the coming months. When the opportunity arises please make sure that your views are given to those involved in the steering group in the appropriate format.

Richard Spurgeon
Chair, Hall Committee

The Mothers' Union Branch Report

2007 has been for us a year of mixed emotions. Our membership has fallen to twenty two but we have an additional three diocesan members in the congregation.

I am sad to report the deaths of two members, Joan Malkin and Ruth Griffiths. Whilst Joan had been a member for a comparatively short time Ruth's membership covered many years. In the 1980's Ruth had served as Treasurer. With these losses we are especially pleased to welcome two new members, Joan Beddoe and Tanya Edwards.

Through failing health two other members, Dorothy Bailey and Nora Parkes have moved into residential care homes. They both look forward to receiving visitors – Dorothy Bailey at Two Beeches Nursing Home and Nora Parkes at Belmont Castle Retirement Home.

Our programme for the year reflected both fun and more thought provoking subjects.

We began the year with our first Epiphany Party and later enjoyed a branch outing to The Swan, Alresford for a pub lunch and a visit to Old Alresford Church where we were met by the local Rector. We ended up the day with Compline. The annual Garden Party was held at the home of Jennifer Higgenbottom where we raised £150 for the Overseas Development Fund. Coffee mornings were held in March and September and in October we entertained each other by each producing a photo or PC and reminiscing about a memorable holiday moment. We ended the year with an Advent Miscellany to which members brought and read a seasonal poem or story and interspersed with the singing of Advent carols.

More serious items included a Lenten Meditation, led by the Revd. Karen Schmidt, a talk by Dorothy Twiss, a former Prison Chaplain, about prisoners lives. Mrs Sue Smith [a Reader at St Wilfrid's and MU member] opened our eyes to some of the unfortunate consequences of 'Cohabitation' especially as the laws affect women. Fr Ray celebrated his birthday with us and introduced us to 'Cognitive Therapy' for which many of us recognised a need in our own lives.

Mrs Sandra Goodey (Diocesan Coordinator for Marketing the MU) led us in a Bible Study based on the book of Esther as an approach to the year's theme 'Faith in Action' followed by a lively discussion.

Several of us took part in Deanery Events like the Strawberry Tea (July) and the Deanery Outing to Canterbury (in place of Tewkesbury, due to the floods). The Lady Day Service was held here at St George's whilst the service for Mary Sumner Day (9th August) was held at Christ Church Portsdown. The Keynote Speaker, Jonathan Aitkin, (former MP) at the Annual Meeting held in Liverpool Cathedral, spoke most movingly describing how his experiences in prison brought about a deepening of his faith and falteringly led him to bring others to Christ with significant changes in their way of life.

At our stalls at the Church Fete and Christmas Bazaar we raised almost £200 for the Church.

In all we enjoyed a varied and productive year. We welcome visitors to our meetings and new members of either gender.

Margaret Symonds
Branch Leader

Pastoral Committee

Our Pre baptism and Post Funeral visit groups continue to thrive, extending our links out into the community.

We have continued with our popular Taize style services and, although numbers are comparatively low, all who attend continue to highly value this dedicated period of meditation and prayer.

The St George's Church Prayer Card for visitors and congregation which were planned during last year have now successfully been implemented and we continue to review the style and content of the various other leaflets we distribute.

Although the lighting of Christmas Lights in the town was cancelled, St George's Church once again hosted the very popular and successful School's Music Concert. We again had very significant numbers with over 250 children and adults present.

We have held our planned Married Couples event on 12th September for couples who have married at our church as well as married people from our congregation. The event was well attended and was followed by refreshments which were partially funded from monies raised at our Parish Breakfast events.

Following investigations into a children's All Saints Day event as an alternative to Halloween it was agreed to take up an invitation from the Baptist Church for members and friends from our church to attend their long running successful event. We will continue to investigate the possibilities of running our own event for the future.

Looking to the coming year we are investigating new areas of outreach with the possibilities of an After School Club, Parent and toddler services as well as a Buddy System for our congregation.

My very sincere thanks to all those on the Pastoral committee and all of you from the congregation who have assisted us throughout the year.

Richard Handy
Chair of Pastoral Committee

Youth Coordinator

There has not been much change since my last report. I am trying to get round to the youth groups but lately it has been a bit difficult. For those people who are new to St George's, my role is to visit the groups on the evening they get together and chat with them there. If anything is brought up I will take it to the Pastoral Committee and non-pastoral items being further carried to full PCC. I hope to continue with this role to keep our children and young people happy.

Sandra Hewett
Youth Coordinator

Child Protection

There is a legal requirement that all volunteers who work with children and young people are checked by Criminal Records Bureau (C.R.B). Since my last report I have continued to be very busy checking volunteers in their new roles, processing the necessary forms which I then validate and send on to be countersigned by the Diocese of Portsmouth. The forms are then sent to the C.R.B for clearance. I hope to continue this role with the support of the PCC. I am about to start going through previous checks to see if any should be brought up to date.

Sandra Hewett
Child Protection Representative

Holy Dusters

We have 8 ladies keeping St George's church clean and tidy every Friday on a rota basis. It is a worthwhile job as we can see something for our work, and we talk to people who visit the church, if they want to talk. Some visit because of a recent bereavement or are just curious to see the inside of the Parish Church. We hope some visitors become regular members! Other people come to tell us they were married here years ago, and have an interesting tale to tell.

The church is now open every day from approximately 9 am to 3 pm and we hope all of you will call in and ensure everything is all right. There are several "heavy" jobs, floor cleaning, very high areas to be dusted, light bulbs that need replacing that also need doing and this is to be discussed with other volunteers in the Spring.

Many thanks to my Loyal Ladies!
Adina Burton

St George's Ladies' Group

The St George's Ladies Group met on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month with a membership of 42. Our selected charity for 2007 was The Rosemary Foundation.

In January we had a Neighbourhood Watch talk by Norma Stirling and a Charity Auction with cheese and wine which raised £145 for the Rosemary Appeal. In February we had Mercy Ships Hope and Healing and a talk on I Scream Ice Cream by Angela Beale. There were two speakers at the March meetings, a talk on Hampshire Fire and Rescue by someone from the Fire Service and John Symonds talking on Wall Paintings. In April there was a skittles evening and supper at Waterloo Social Club and a talk on Uppark National Trust by Fr Ray Chapman. In May we had a talk by Mary Morgan on Time for Tea Tasting and a talk by Graham Land on the Sheep and Ostrich Farm. We had our AGM and a Bring and Buy in June together with the presentation to Mick Lyons of a cheque for £600 for the 2006 Rocky Appeal.

We had our end of year dinner at the Red Lion at Horndean in July followed by a break for the summer and came back in September with a speaker from the Rosemary Foundation and a talk by Philip Weiss, Head Ranger of Horndean P.C. In October we had a chocolate demonstration by Dawn Shrives and in November a visit of Dragon Ladies and Call My Bluff and an open meeting by the Phoenix Singers. On 6th December we had our Christmas dinner at the Red Lion at Horndean.

Mrs Anne Brown
Chairperson

George's Men

George's Men have enjoyed yet another fun-packed year of events, some tried and tested, others new, but most sharing a common theme of beer!

Old faithfuls have included excellent evenings of croquet chez Hodgens where the grass is always green and the beer is always in the barrel and there is a chance for some of the more competitive members to show off their killer instincts. Then there was the mandatory brewery trip – this time David Palmer got us over to Stumpys in Swanmore to see the product being made then do a bit of quality control checking (you'll be pleased to know that it was all OK!)

Dick Handy treated us to an evening of indoor cricket – I won't even try and explain the rules but just say that there are no bats, balls or stumps involved! And in the same family vein, Dick's son-in-law, Gareth, brought some of his wargaming chums along to the Hall to give us a taster of waging war on enemies ranging from aliens from outer space to the Spanish Armada, all using little models – great fun it was too.

At a slightly more cultural level, David Cavey attempted to teach us a bit about wine appreciation. Tremendously interesting stuff, though Richard Spurgeon's major concern was the amount that ended up in the slop bucket!

John Williams gave us a great summer evening at the 5" gauge railway track of Fareham Society of Model Engineers where some of the club's members took us for rides behind their superb miniature locomotives. We coupled that (pun intended) with a celebration of Cec Wilman's birthday.

Christmas saw us at the Barley Mow at Walderton for a great skittles evening organised by Colin Monk. Father Mike proved, as he regularly does at the croquet evenings, that his years at Theological College weren't wasted as he proceeded to slaughter all challengers.

Then to end the year (or at least the April to March accounting year), several members either hosted or fronted the sessions of this year's Lent course.

A big thank you must be extended to all who organise, hosted, or were involved in any way with this year's events, and the 2008-9 season kicks off in just a few weeks time with yet another brewery trip. What a struggle!

The Group is now around 20 so it's in a healthy condition, but we're always open to new recruits so if there's anyone out there who'd like to come along please feel free to contact Colin Monk or Dick Handy for details.

Tony Shepherd

Tweenies

Eating always plays a large part in the calendar of events for the Tweenies. 25 people attended the Christmas dinner and we then celebrated Easter with a chocolate evening. Exercise played a very small part this year as only 3 brave souls went swimming and even less went for a long summer walk, due to the extreme rain.

One of the great things to celebrate during 2007 was the marriages of Amanda Jones and Lisa Handy - two of the group. Both received very rude presents from the Tweenies to start their married life!

The autumn saw pickled onion making, a candle evening and a Murder mystery to solve. We opened our doors to other halves for the murder and

also invited them to join us for the classical music concert and fireworks at Stansted House. This was a lovely hot evening with more food and plenteous alcohol.

Lent saw a regular meeting of Tweenies - with 5 of the group feeling confident to lead a session. Interest was expressed in a retreat. How great it is that this is going to happen in May 2008 at East Cowes convent. And no doubt we'll all eat well there!

Lynda Sheffield

Walsingham Cell Report

Friday 13th April saw our happy band of pilgrims wending their way on the coach to Walsingham for the 2007 pilgrimage. As the new pilgrim it fell to me to write a synopsis of our visit.

We arrived at Walsingham at 3 pm having picked up the other pilgrims at St Alban's, West Leigh and joining them in their church for the Blessing. Two stops were made en route for coffee and lunch, in Bury St Edmunds. What a lovely place! We arrived in the Holy House on time for our first visit. The experience, as a first time entering the Holy House, was very humbling yet awe-inspiring and I spent the whole weekend being struck by the beauty of everything, both inside and out. Supper followed our own pilgrims' Mass and the evening ended with Shrine Prayers and Compline.

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny and we had Stations of the Cross after breakfast. Some pilgrims then walked and others drove to the Slipper Chapel and Catholic Shrine. The afternoon was spent in various ways – at Sandringham, Wells next the Sea, or simply exploring Walsingham itself, browsing in the shops or relaxing in the Abbey grounds in the beautiful sunshine.

After the Mass of our Lady of Walsingham we took part in the candlelit procession which was very mystical as we wove our way around the grounds which were bathed in the mist rolling in from the sea after such a hot day. I was also very privileged to have been able to serve at this service. Benediction followed the procession and then we had a pilgrims' party to celebrate Dick Handy's birthday. A great time was had by all.

Hot sunshine again greeted us on Sunday morning. We participated in our own very moving Healing Mass. After lunch we all went to the Sprinkling and Anointing which was followed by the procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the grounds, this time bathed in bright sunlight.

I found the whole experience of these different ceremonies very moving, enhanced by the fabulous music and the beauty and atmosphere of the Shrine. We had fantastic food, fine wine, glorious weather and for me, I was able to return to Waterlooville feeling both mentally and spiritually uplifted, ready to face whatever life might throw at me over the next year.

Anne Morgan

Church Flower Fund

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the flower fund and to those who have helped with the flower decoration throughout the year. The fund is looking quite healthy although we do have the rest of the year to get through.

The Friday market serves us quite well much of the time, but the Flower Shop, although more expensive, has better quality blooms and more readily available, so value for money can pose a problem.

At the time of writing it is hoped that Yvonne will soon be back at the helm.

Yvonne Jones and June Diaper

Bible Reading Fellowship

Although the individual subscribers to the Bible Reading Fellowship daily reading notes change, the overall number remains at 15. The subscription year begins in May when the new group discount rate will be £3.60 per copy with 3 issues during the year. I can easily obtain additional copies at any time for new subscribers.

Please speak to me if you are interested – I also have free sample copies available.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

This year there were only three meetings as there had been insufficient items of business to make a worthwhile agenda for the February meeting.

Consequently, the June meeting at Blendworth had an agenda of 15 items which made for a long evening. As a point of interest this was the 150th meeting of Havant Deanery Synod and the first item on the Agenda was the appointment of Deanery Secretary to replace Georgie Black who had left at

the end of the previous year. Paul Moore proposed Anne Stunt to fill the vacancy and this was carried unanimously.

Tony Blackshaw, Diocesan Director of Education and Head of Mission & Education for the Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth, gave a very interesting presentation entitled "How can we engage more fully and strategically with our local schools". He and his team look after 145 schools and nearly 31,000 pupils. He pointed out that schools are essentially based on Christian values and by law are required to provide a daily collective act of worship mainly and broadly Christian in content, which is why churches should be involved in serving their local schools. He wanted Synod's support and invited members to contact him directly.

Revd Jonathan Jeffery from Leigh Park & Warren Park proposed a "Good Community Conference", a Deanery-wide event with speakers from Church, politics etc to add to the quality of the communities we live in and this was approved.

Tony Rice-Oxley reported on the Koforidua fund. Money had been received from 12 parishes and a cheque for £1860 would be sent to go towards the palm oil project which was ready for start-up. Paul Moore thanked all the parishes for their involvement but reminded Synod that the total pledged amount was £3870 and parishes should be encouraged to make further donations.

It was reported that the parish partnerships within Kairos were going well and the next phase to be presented at the Diocesan Synod is "Buildings", a way of thinking about engaging in the community and using existing resources. Standing Committee had suggested that a Kairos update should take place at every Synod.

Revd Karen Schmidt from Purbrook reported on the West of Waterlooville development. Outline planning permission had been granted for about 500 houses. The 1st phase was 3 years behind schedule and an ecumenical group, led by the Archdeacon, had been meeting for the past 3 years to monitor the impact the development might have. 2 schools were in the plan and there were hopes for a parish worker and a church school.

Ian Hewitt introduced a Gutter Maintenance Programme adopted by the Diocese of London. He suggested that if there was sufficient interest Synod should ask the Diocese to introduce a similar programme. Synod supported this provided the Diocese had the ability to implement it.

18th September Christchurch, Portsdown.

Revd Wendy Kennedy spoke about her role as Diocesan Secretary and emphasised her willingness to support parishes at grass-roots level by attending meetings and taking part in their discussions. She stressed that the Diocese is not a separate entity but is holding matters in common and in trust with and for all parishes within the Diocese. She mentioned the changes and new structures at Peninsular House and their striving for mission, outreach, education and social responsibility. Wendy saw her role as being in the middle, serving and answering the Diocese. At the request of parishes she was planning to provide central assistance for fundraising and project management and was looking for people who could provide professional help. Questioned if the Diocese was considering employing the services of an architect Wendy explained that the Diocese was generally looking into centralising areas such as church maintenance, legal services, surveying etc. based on the cost-effectiveness of doing so. A Diocesan Library was not going to be restored as it wasn't used and took up too much space and time. With regard to the Budget, Wendy stressed that the parish share is not a tax but a voluntary contribution to share costs and pay for ministry and clergy. She asked for prayers for Kairos to instil more passion into our church life and to pray for faith and trust in God.

Paul Moore spoke about the budget for 2008. He explained that Bishop's Council had looked at the proposed budget and asked the Deanery Finance Committees for comment. It was a standstill budget aimed at maintaining the level of ministry and funding and an increase of 5.45% in parish share would be necessary for the following year to cover rises in the budget. A parish share review group had been asked to look into the calculation system and they had concluded that the current system is the fairest. The socio-economic score (SES), based on census data, ensures that poorer parishes pay less and richer parishes pay more. However, the group recommended a change in the range of the SES to reflect the widening gap between rich and poor over recent years. Figures had since been provided for a new way of calculating the SES and the Havant Deanery Finance Committee recommended that it be introduced over a 3-year transition period. In addition they recommended that West Leigh be given a reduction of Share for 2008, the balance being borne by the parishes of the Deanery. Revd Jonathon Jeffery, Leigh Park, mentioned that Bishop Kenneth and Michael Jordan took pride in the fact that parishes for a number of years have paid in full and on time, but were most pleased that the parish shares were based on a system of fairness.

Representatives for the parish partnerships reported on their various activities and initiatives. For the **Southern partnership, Hayling Island**, Paul Ginever spoke about the plans for the Kairos cluster to get involved in

the childcare and extended schools plans on Hayling Island. For the rest of the **Southern partnership**, Mary Close and Jonathon Jeffery reported on the Pentecost Celebrations and the Pastoral Care Training Day. A Diary leaflet had been produced for worship, courses and social events across the cluster. For the **Northern partnership** Paul Moore informed Synod that a Christian Listening Service in the GP surgery was in its training phase and a pilot scheme would be starting Easter 2008. There were joint youth events, and a vision for combined youth work and marriage preparation. For the **Central partnership** Tony Rice-Oxley reported on joint services and social events. A diary on the churches' website was being planned, youth work took place across the cluster and there were regular meetings of Churchwardens.

The Deanery Pastoral Committee, at their July meeting, had noted with concern the large number of NSMs leaving the Deanery and how dependent parishes were on NSMs. They would bring this to the notice of the Bishop's Council and senior staff. They also felt that it was time to review the Deanery Pastoral Plan (set up 2 years ago) in the light of current events and to make recommendations to the Synod in November.

21st November 2007 - St. Thomas, Bedhampton

The main speaker of the evening was the Revd Paul Kennedy, Diocesan Advisor on Healing (as part of the Mission and Discipleship team). He spoke about our understanding of Healing and Wholeness and stressed the difference between healing and cure. Healing, he said, concerns wholeness of body and mind but not necessarily cure and he referred to the reading for the day where Jesus heals the leper; the leper is cured but also made whole. Paul pointed out that Salvation frees us from all that drags us down whether it be personal problems, sin, relationships, broken communities etc. Salvation is also preparation for death as it frees us from the attachment to life. Hence Healing, Wholeness and Salvation go hand in hand and this can be seen in the church service: at Intercession we pray for anything that is broken, the Eucharist provides transformation through the gifts of Christ and the Dismissal sends us out to bring Healing to others.

The Diocese provides resources for parishes and supports other Healing services and retreats. An Annual Day of Healing and Wholeness for anyone interested in healing as a Christian would take place in May 2008. The Healing Team can be contacted to provide resources for Quiet Days or supporting Healing Ministries. Clergy in particular are also given support.

Finance - At this meeting it was recommended that the Capitation Fee be left at £20 per member to prepare for the Lambeth Conference in July 2008.

Koforidua - Paul Moore expressed his thanks to all parishes who had donated so generously. The total requested for the Palm Oil project was £3,680 of which £2,180

had been collected and £1,000 paid out so far. Of the £3,000 needed for the Stipend Fund £1,260 had been paid in and parishes were now being asked for their second contributions (if not already paid in one lump sum)

Deanery Pastoral Committee - Paul More explained the history and development behind the Deanery Plan and pointed out that the Plan was foundational for the future ministry in this Deanery. It formally set up the three parish partnerships to explore new ways of working together across boundaries. The DPC had used the plan as a basis on which to advise the Synod, the Bishop and the Archdeacon. By 2015 stipendiary posts should be reduced by 2.5. Paul Moore noted that significant changes in relationships had happened within the Parish Partnerships and the DPC would be looking to the Parish Partnerships for grass roots views about any developments in the Deanery.

Lambeth Conference. This will be taking place from 11th to 16th July 2008. The Deanery is asked to host three bishops and spouses. A Deanery event is suggested for Sunday 13th and the Bishops are expected to be involved with the Sunday services in their host parish. The Deanery is expected to raise £600 to support the hosts and meet other expenses. A warm welcome is hoped for the visitors and Revd Ann Leonard has already agreed to host Bishop Francis from Koforidua for this event.

Adrienne Bridger
Wendy Pearce

St George's News Website – www.stgeorgesnews.org

The St George's News website continues to progress and develop. If you have not been there recently, please take a visit and see some of the new features.

These include:

A calendar and diary which is the ideal reference point for finding out all that is going on at St George's, and any previously announced events that have changed. We try hard to keep the diary up to date. Details of each event include the time and location, and you can click alongside the location to get a map. You can change the layout to display as a diary list or as a weekly or monthly calendar. The Kairos Group churches have worked together to develop the facility for each church to be able to feed Kairos events on to the calendars of each church in the Kairos Group automatically, and the Kairos Group will continue to look at other ways in which we can co-operate to create new website services.

We now have the minutes of PCC meetings available to read on the website, and you can also view the whole of this ACPM report (and last year's too!)

It is now possible to make a donation to St George's on the website by credit or debit card – and also buy a magazine subscription.

We have also developed a comprehensive website for the Waterloo Music Festival which includes an On-Line box office where tickets can be purchased by credit card. Programmes and posters can also be downloaded from the website and printed out.

Of course every copy of the church magazine is on the website to read, going right back to 1997, and starting 2007 we now include a translation service – select the required language from the choice listed in the box at the bottom of the page, and the text is instantly translated. If you want to find something in a past issue of St George's News then use our search engine – put in the keyword(s) you are looking for and you will get a list of all the relevant pages where your keywords have been found.

There's lots more on the website depending on the time of year – the Lent Group and Easter Services leaflet, the Christmas Services leaflet, posters for the Fete or Bazaar which you can download and print out to display – so please use these many resources whenever you can – where we can save the church from printing something we are also saving money!

There are many other features we can develop in the future if church groups want to use them. Here are some ideas – if you are interested please let us know.

We can set up mailing lists – a single email address will send an email to a group of email addresses in one go. This is already set up for the Waterloo Music festival committee and has been found extremely useful.

Individuals can have their own St George's News email address. Lots of church members have one already – your St George's News email address redirects to another email address that you specify. Your St George's email address never changes – if you change your main email address you just let us know and we amend the redirect.

Do you have a church rota that you would like on the website. We can set this up for you, and provide you with an easy means of changing it and keep it up to date yourself. Then everyone on the rota can easily check it On-Line, without having to search for a bit of paper.

Any church group or organisation that wants an On-line shopping cart to receive payment for subscriptions, services or goods, please let us know – we can set it up on the website (there are some card handling fees involved).

Some of our younger people – how about taking on a project to produce a podcast, maybe of the band, or of a family service presentation – something

that we can use for outreach and publicity. We have a professional podcasting account with Jellycast that we don't use at the moment and that's designed specifically for high speed audio or video webcast hosting. How about producing a video of church activities that we can put on the website and on YouTube?

Another future project is the possibility of a prayer group forum, if there is the interest and demand. Please let us know of any ideas you may have for ways the website can be developed and improved. If the interest is there, we will try and do it! Contact John Johnson – feedback@stgeorgesnews.org

www.stgeorgesnews.org – set it as the page that loads when you open your web browser – just click on the request at the bottom of the opening page!

John Johnson

Magazine Committee

The new style magazine has now been 'in print' for a little over a year. The size has increased from 29 pages to 35 and individual copies have increased in price from 30p to 35p. Thank you to those of you who are paying £2.00 annually. This does help in our budgeting and means you can 'forget' about finding change until the following year. If you do not already pay annually but would like to, Fiona Ross will be pleased to collect your £2.00.

We believe the magazine has improved, both in appearance and content but we are always open to further suggestions and comments. Sadly, in the latter regard, things continue to be quiet (I reported in the same vein in the last report). The readers' letters page we had planned to commence has not got off the ground due to the absence of readers' letters. It should be mentioned that a local magazine has recently had to cease publication because of lack of input from the congregation. If you do not want that to happen to 'St George's News', then we need to hear from you, please!

It has been clear, from our meetings, that the Magazine Committee would like to see the magazine go further than an 'in house' magazine for Church family members. It is felt that a way of reaching out to people would be to eventually provide a free magazine with a large circulation. The current production is approximately 250, slightly more for festival editions. To be able to increase this to, say, 1000, to be produced and delivered free of charge certainly would not be a straightforward exercise for both technical and practical reasons. However, we do urgently need to increase our distribution. An interim plan is to deliver ten copies at random each month with an invitation to subscribe for regular copies. If you can help with distribution or can encourage a neighbour or friend to subscribe, these will be

of benefit to your Church. The magazine raises approximately £800 per annum for general funds.

To forestall a possible question, surely the Church would lose out then if the magazine was issued free of charge? Not if we can solve the second problem, which is to find a lot more advertisers. The revenue from the advertisements would then not only cover magazine production but hopefully show some profit at the end. It is a huge undertaking but we believe it is possible at some point in the future. Again, we ask your help in notifying Tony or John of any prospective advertisers that are interested or can be approached.

Lynn Winter

St George's Servers

St George's is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated group of servers who are prepared to assist in the sanctuary. There are many churches that are envious of the position we find ourselves in. Having said that anybody who would like to become a server would be welcomed.

We welcomed Dick Handy and Richard Spurgeon to the serving team, and said farewell to Rod Dawson. Thank you Rod for your services over the past years.

Our serving team still comprise the majority of those attending the monthly Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary's meetings, and we hosted the Portsmouth Chapter's 106th Anniversary Mass. At the start of the mass, both Dick and Richard were inducted as probationers. They will receive their medals (identical to those worn by the other servers) at our anniversary Mass later on in September. The guild also arranged a skittles evening as a social event after the service in August.

The serving team aim to go out for a meal at least twice a year, as we rarely get the opportunity to all meet together.

I am grateful to Amy, Katherine, Lauren and Daniel for performing the role of boat girl/boy over the last year. If any other youngster would like to perform that role, please let me know, and I will fit you into the rota.

Sorting out the rota can sometimes be a challenge. I am grateful to Anne and Abi who have assisted me in this task, and also to Adrienne for keeping our contact list up-to-date.

Our serving team were complimented for the way they conducted their duties at the confirmation service presided by The Bishop of Basingstoke, and he even suggested that one of the servers might consider ordination – high praise indeed.

We now have a new thurible to use on those occasions that Incense is used, and we are extremely grateful to Dick and Lesley Handy for giving this to St George's Church to celebrate the marriage of their daughter, Lisa to Gareth. It was extremely fitting that it was first used at the midnight mass service by Lesley, and by the time you have read this report, Dick will have used it on Easter Day.

Finally, a big thank you to all the servers and Fr Mike and Fr Ray for their support over the last year. Also to Tony Rice-Oxley for having undertaken the role (for a second time) for the last few years in addition to his other duties, including Churchwarden.

David Palmer
Head Server

Sunday School

Firstly, it is only right to acknowledge, with our sincere thanks, the hard work and commitment that Julia Spurgeon has given to the Sunday school for fifteen years. It is no mean feat and the fact there there are now two teams who work on alternate weeks underlines that point. Thank you, Julia, for all you have done.

We are blessed with a very young Sunday School and have, on average, eight to ten regular children plus a few Mums (or Dads). We have been delighted to welcome visiting children throughout the year, often grandchildren of members of the Church family. Any new faces are accepted well by our existing children and all join in enthusiastically.

As mentioned, there are now two Sunday school teams. This was decided to enable the teachers to be able to join in with the worship on alternate Sundays. During 2007, the teams consisted of Dawn Trimby, Dawn Hyatt and Anne Willoughby on one week and Lynn Winter, Jules Shepherd and Anne Willoughby on the other. We have worked on various projects, including the Miracles of Jesus. Dawn Hyatt has re-vamped the Sunday school noticeboard and has maintained this throughout the year, creating a colourful 'advertisement' for our activities. Thank you Dawn.

Some of the teachers and children experienced the Bright White Party, an alternative to Halloween, with our friends at the Baptist Church, which we all enjoyed. We have also taken part in the Family Eucharists. It is particularly pleasing to see even the little ones joining in as much as possible. Thank you Fr Mike for continuing to encourage the children. Our Harvest presentation included all the children and, because of their age, needed to be fairly straightforward, but all rose to the challenge. As indeed was the case at the Crib Service. The children did exceptionally well and we were all very proud of them. Our thanks to those members of the Youth Club who donned costumes and took on a little charge or two to help us and to Daniella who narrated the story. Well done all of you. Thank you too to Anne and her team for preparing the Christingles, everyone who got the Church ready and to Sue and the Band for providing the music.

The Sunday School Teams

Youth Club

Our Youth club continues to flourish and we are still up to our optimum number of 25. Over the year we said goodbye to Nicky Shier, Gabi Read, Emily Arnold, Claire Levers and Daniel Stead. Gabi, Emily and Claire have moved on to Link Group. In their place we have welcomed Jack Bond, Sarah Forbes, Maisie Durrant, Lauren Trimby and Daisy Stokes. Our routines and activities remain very much the same with a balance between home and away events. The Youth for Christ Rock Solid programme continues to provide a good basis of activities taking up 4 or 5 Fridays each term. Unfortunately this is a very expensive course and we are currently considering taking a break for a year or two while we use up many of the Rock Solid sessions which we have not used so far.

With quizzes, visits, talks, craft, cooking and games evenings taking up much of the remaining evenings, it just leaves us to balance the activities list with an evening at ten pin bowling or swimming once in a while.

Our canal boat trip last Easter was a great success with many new children coming along for the first time. We took two boats from Braunston and travelled up the Braunston flight, through the Braunston tunnel and down the locks to Stole Bruerne where we visited the local waterways museum. We were welcomed by the local paper who took photographs for inclusion in their next issue. Big thanks are due to Candy and John who came along and skippered the second boat.

Our Fordingbridge cycling weekend at the end of May is always so popular. This time we were accompanied by several parents who were keen to get

cycling. However the fact remains that the weather was so bad that not much cycling was done, and we had to revert to the old standby of swimming on the Sunday afternoon to get away from the torrential down pouring.

We held our fundraising race night in March which was very successful adding £480 to funds, and our traditional fundraising bonfire night in aid of Naomi House raised £150.

The absence of Fr Mike on Sabbatical allowed us to undertake 2 Sunday service presentations, the first being on heroes and the second on travelling which neatly linked into Fr Mike's return from his travels.

Again we must thank our helpers without whom Youth Club would not be able to exist. Many people come along to help but we must name Jane Cook who is there every week, Fr Mike, Candy and John Williams who are there on many occasions and Susan and Andy Cook who regularly help out. With the advent of Rock Solid these helpers are now pushed into running one or two games within that programme and we hope that they have enjoyed this additional involvement.

A final thank you to the hall committee and the PCC for their support of the youth club and to the congregation for their interest and backing.

Tony Rice-Oxley

Link Group

This group is full of hellos and goodbyes, as new people join and others go off to university. 2007 was no exception to this and the group now has 10 members.

During Lent, the group studied the same course as the rest of the church, meeting every week. The rest of the year, monthly meetings included ten-pin bowling, a walk to the pub and a video evening.

Lynda Sheffield

St George's Choir

We continue as a small but committed group, doing our best to enhance the music at St George's. We have been delighted to welcome two new members this year - Catherine, who also plays clarinet in the Church Band and Wendy who answered my plea at last year's ACM.

Highlights of our year have been the Easter, Advent, Christmas and Taize services, the Christmas Carol Service being particularly well received. We are also pleased to be singing Choral Evensong again on a regular basis.

Our junior members continue to make good progress with their singing, working towards RSCM awards. Youngsters lead increasingly busy lives, trying to juggle social activities with work, college and school and we thank them for the commitment they show to the choir.

We would like to thank our occasional singers who join us for special events. It would be great to swell our numbers on a more regular basis and if there is anyone who would like to join us we would love to hear from you.

We would like to finish by thanking Fr. Mike for his support and to Cecil Wilman for his dedication as Director of Music.

Julia Spurgeon
Junior Choir Trainer

St George's Band

Our band remains quite small and it is difficult to find new members, but we have had 2 players join us this year to add to our sound. Steve joined us during the year to play the alto saxophone and more recently Nerys has joined us to play the flute. We also still have Jess and Don who continue to add to our numbers as and when they can.

A few month's ago, I contacted by email a number of teachers in the area who taught flute and clarinet in the hope that we could gain some more members from outside the church. This is how Nerys learnt of us as her teacher gave her the details and she went on to contact me, although I later found out that Nerys is also Priscilla's daughter.

We are planning a charity concert in church on Sunday, 18th May which we would like to do for a children's charity. We have had to postpone this concert a couple of times already, so we are hoping that this time it will go ahead.

There has always been a 'core' of commitment within the band and everyone in the band is committed to perform for church events and enjoy the comradeship of being a part of the music of our church.

We are grateful to everyone who supports the band.

Sue Palmer

St George's Social and Fundraising Committee

We began a varied and enterprising year with a West End Premiere Show in February. The Parish lunch was in April and everyone seemed to enjoy having a hot meal for a change. We made £213 with £100 earmarked as first prize for the summer fete. There was a Travelling Supper in May with many kind hosts feeding different guests who travelled in differing directions ending up at the vicarage. The profit was £166.

In June the Waterlooville Music Festival took place. Whilst not strictly speaking a church event, it uses the church and so many of its people, it deserves a mention. This is the third year of the Festival and it grows all the time. It is a good outreach for St George's. The Summer Fete came at the end of the Festival week and we were lucky with the weather. We raised approximately £2,500, an excellent effort by our tried and true team!

In July we held the Strawberry Sparkle at the kind invitation of the Hodgens in Catherington. It was a lovely evening in a not so good summer. The garden looked beautiful as we gazed over the surrounding hills. The champagne flowed and the company was merry! £135 was the end result.

In September we had a new evening with Curry and Dog Racing and raised a splendid £337. We ate a variety of curries and then had dog racing on the TV which we bet on. October saw the charity shop which we operated for one week in the Waterlooville precinct and wasn't it fun? So many people came through the shop and then revisited again and again. We raised an astonishing amount of just over £3,000!! This was paid directly to church and so does not show up in our accounts. There were so many willing helpers and our customers remarked on how friendly and helpful we were. A good outreach as well as a good result. We were asked if we couldn't do it for longer by several people....I'm not sure our workforce could manage it though!

Friday morning coffees continue to have a good following and raised £869 over the year! £800 of this was given to the church. The Pastoral Committee have continued with the occasional Parish breakfast which is most popular with both 8am and 10am congregations. Sadly our barbeque had to be cancelled because of the weather. In October we joined together with our partnership churches and had a Kairos Barn Dance with each of the churches having their own responsibilities during the evening. Our Bazaar raised approximately £1,700 and provided a seasonal feeling for the beginning of December.

Within our expenditure for the year we bought an urn for the kitchen, helped toward the Film Club licence, provided wine for the Carol service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services. We hired the barbeque for the (cancelled) ramble (money refunded). We bought disposable cups for social use. Made tithes to the hall for our use thereof. We provided first prizes for the Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar.

I'd like to thank everyone, organisers and supporters alike, for another varied and abundant year.

Jane Rice-Oxley

St George's 100 Club and Accounts

As you will see from the accounts below, the 100 club has been able to make a donation of £593.56 to Church funds this year. Unfortunately this is slightly below our potential of £600 plus interest as we have sadly lost a few of our long standing members this year. We currently have two spare numbers so if anyone would like join please let me know. To those of you who are members, thank you for your continued support and yes, I know, your number never comes up, but maybe this year you will be lucky!

Colin Monk

ST GEORGE'S 100 CLUB

ACCOUNTS

1 JANUARY 2007 TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| PRIZE MONEY PAID OUT | £590.00 |
| DONATION TO PCC | £593.56 |
| BANK AT 31.12.07 | £427.00 |
| CASH AT 31.12.07 | £0.00 |

**£1,610.5
6**

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| BALANCE AT 1.1.07 | £364.00 |
| SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID | £1,240.0 0 |
| BANK INTEREST | £6.56 |

**£1,610.5
6**

**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION**

**MONTHLY
MEMBERSHIP**

**LIST OF
WINNERS**

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|----|-------------------|----------------|
| JANUARY | 98 | JANUARY | 71 | M. ANDERSON | £10.00 |
| | | | 82 | A.BRIDGER | £5.00 |
| | | | | A.WILLOUGHB | |
| FEBRUARY | 98 | FEBRUARY | 26 | Y | £10.00 |
| MARCH | 98 | | 99 | J.BRADLEY | £5.00 |
| APRIL | 99 | MARCH | 77 | J.BEDDOE | £75.00 |
| MAY | 98 | | 91 | J.PEARCE | £15.00 |
| JUNE | 98 | APRIL | 86 | M.SYMONDS | £10.00 |
| JULY | 98 | | 15 | K.BURTON | £5.00 |
| | | | 10 | | |
| AUGUST | 98 | MAY | 0 | R. BULLOCK | £10.00 |
| SEPTEMBER | 98 | | 75 | R.MILLER | £5.00 |
| OCTOBER | 98 | JUNE | 12 | D.TRIMBY | £75.00 |
| NOVEMBER | 98 | | 34 | G.HANLON | £10.00 |
| DECEMBER | 98 | JULY | 71 | M. ANDERSON | £10.00 |
| | | | 53 | C. RICE-OXLEY | £5.00 |
| | 117 | | | | |
| | 7 | AUGUST | 77 | J. BEDDOE | £10.00 |
| | | | 56 | J. GASSER | £5.00 |
| | | SEPTEMBE R | 1 | D.LLOYD | £75.00 |
| | | | 75 | R.MILLER | £10.00 |
| | | OCTOBER | 68 | R.BROWN | £10.00 |
| | | | 75 | R.MILLER | £5.00 |
| | | NOVEMBER | 68 | R.BROWN | £10.00 |
| | | | 4 | E.INWOOD | £5.00 |
| | | DECEMBER | 67 | S. HARRIS | £100.00 |
| | | | 53 | C. RICE-OXLEY | £60.00 |
| | | | 94 | L. SHEFFIELD | £40.00 |
| | | | | J. HIGGINBOTTO | |
| | | | 92 | M | £10.00 |
| | | | | | £590.00 |