



**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 2008**

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

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC 272 London Road Waterlooville Hants PO7 7HN	Banks: HSBC Bank PLC 312 London Road Waterlooville Hants PO7 7DX	Mr Gordon Beer MA (Cantab) FCA 80 Moggs Mead Herne Farm Petersfield Hants GU31 4PH
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**THERE WILL BE A ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING ON SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2009 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 2008 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 5 PCC members
8. Election of Sidespersons
9. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
10. It is proposed by the PCC that starting at the APCM of St. George's Church, Waterlooville in 2010, Churchwardens should be elected for a maximum of 6 years instead of the current 4 years. This brings St. George's into line with the nationally recommended period of service.
11. It is also proposed by the PCC that starting at the APCM of St. George's Church, Waterlooville in 2010, PCC members seeking re-election will be able to stand immediately. The current rule prohibiting for one year re-election to the PCC will be dropped.
12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 20th April 2008 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. There were 82 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 Anna Richardson, Lisa Toft, Cora Martindale, The Shepherd family, Jennefer Higginbottom, Jim Rosser, Tasha Cook
3. **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:** although in this parish we elect Churchwardens to serve for 4 years they still have to be re-elected yearly. Everywhere else elects their Churchwardens to stand for 6 years and the PCC will look at changing this to bring it in line with everyone else. Tony Rice-Oxley has been Churchwarden for 4 years and is standing down. Tony and Jane do so much for St George's and we have a huge amount to say thank you for. Tony acts as a shield for Fr Mike and has borne the brunt of all manner of things so from a personal point of view also he thanked Tony for all he has done. He presented Tony with a bottle of port on behalf of everyone. There was only one nomination and the election of Richard Spurgeon as Churchwarden was proposed by Colin Monk and seconded by Wendy Pearce and was agreed unanimously. Fr Mike expressed his thanks also to Margaret Symonds who has just completed two years as Churchwarden and 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. Richard will take over officially in the first week of June when the archdeacon comes and says goodbye to Tony and welcomes Richard as the new Churchwarden.
4. **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS:** Rosemary Monk who is the Electoral Roll Officer said that she had put the new updated Electoral Roll onto A3 and this will be available at the back of Church. Can people please check their details – address, telephone number and title are correct. There are 159 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, and 2 more to add during the year when they become 16. 1 person moved away, there are 7 changes of address, 10 new members and 3 sadly removed through death. If anyone wishes to apply they can be

added at any time during the year and agreed by the PCC.

5. **MINUTES OF THE 2007 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING:** There was an amendment to the minutes as follows:
- Margaret Symonds - on the page starting Koforidua, the last sentence should read "in the Diocese of Sekondi".

Matters Arising

Adrienne Bridger said she wished to correct a wrong impression that had been given by her Deanery Synod Report and which had been commented upon by Winifred. Although her report had been correct as far as it went there had been an error in the Minutes of the November 2006 meeting received from the Deanery Secretary and because there was no meeting in February this error was not picked up until the June 2007 meeting. With reference to the 3 Koforidua projects these had been dealt with, and therefore recorded, out of the order in which they had been listed, the third project being discussed before the second. To set the record straight it was the Diocesan Offices project that was put on hold until costings were available not the Stipend fund and payment system. All members had been horrified at the payment system operating at the time and determined that this must be rectified.

There being no further amendments, the minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by David Hodgens and seconded by Colin Monk and agreed unanimously.

6. **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Carol McKells said that since producing the original overview, there have been a small number of amendments made to the figures and she handed out a new version and went through the changes.

She explained that the full version of the Accounts is available but she must stress that they have not been certified by the examiner. Unfortunately Jackson Green are unable to sign off the Accounts as they feel unqualified to produce examiners notes to satisfy the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Regulations. This came as quite a shock bearing in mind that they had had the accounts for several weeks and had gone through the process of checking the figures and had got almost to the stage of signing. We are now faced with finding another accountant and the prospect of hefty charges.

The Diocesan Finance Office are aware of the situation and

suggested that, for the time being, we present the Accounts as they stand. Once the Accounts have been signed off they will be available and displayed on the Noticeboard.

Carol asked if there were any questions.

John Johnson asked about extraordinary income and how this was made up. Carol said these are mainly transfers between the old bank account and the new one and some for returned cheques which had to go in and be re-presented. Also special items which have not been budgeted for. Fr Mike explained that we had changed from Lloyds TSB to HSBC during the year as Lloyds started charging interest.

Jane Rice-Oxley asked about the make up of fees for fundraisers and cost of fetes and other events.

Carol said this could be for raffle tickets, purchase of bulbs to sell by David Palmer but she will check.

Lynda Sheffield said that the financial totals expenditure is in excess of income by £5000 and do we need to worried about this.

Carol explained that £3252 of this amount is for hall depreciation.

The overspend before the amended figures was £469. Tony said that every year we spend more than our income. He can only remember one year in the last 10 when we have not. Every year we make up this money from our reserves but if shares go down this will be very noticeable. Dick said that year on year we try to cut back but still end up spending more.

Fr Mike proposed a big thank you to Carol, particularly in the last few weeks dealing with the accountants. The job of Treasurer is a mammoth one and we thank Carol for all that she does.

7. **ELECTION OF 2 DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES:** we elect Deanery Synod representatives. Wendy Pearce and Adrienne Bridger have been our representatives for the last 3 years so thank you to them for representing St George's on the Synod and reporting back to PCC. 2 people have very kindly offered to stand – Linda Wainwright proposed by Sandra Hewett and seconded by Tony Rice-Oxley and Lindsay Chalk proposed by Tony Rice-Oxley and seconded by Lynn Winter. They will stand for the next 3 years and will be ex officio members of the PCC. Fr Mike asked if everyone is happy to elect Lindsay and Linda to represent St George's on the Deanery Synod. This was agreed unanimously.

8. **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 10 times over the last year. The PCC was

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 – Colin Monk, Yvonne Jones, Abi Morgan, David Cavey, Denise Rosser, Mabel Maginn, Dick Handy, David Palmer and Julia Spurgeon and 1 co-opted member Richard Spurgeon, Hall Chairman.

Goodbye and thank you to Abi who has served for one year and Yvonne and Colin who have served for 3 years. We therefore need 3 new members to serve on the PCC for 3 years and 3 people filled in forms and volunteered to join the PCC – Leon Bartosiak, proposed by Jo Guy and seconded by Rod Dawson, David Hodgins proposed by Colin Monk and seconded by Richard Spurgeon and Elaine Shimbart proposed by Margaret Symonds and seconded by John Symonds. Fr Mike asked if everyone is happy to elect Leon, David and Elaine to the PCC and this was agreed unanimously.

9. **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSIONS:** Fr Mike expressed thanks to all the Sidespersons currently on the rotas. He said this is a very important job and the first impression people get of St George's as they walk through the door. Dick Handy read out the list of sidespersons as follows:

David and Margaret Cavey, John Symonds, Yvonne Jones, Tony Shepherd, Lynda Sheffield, Colin and Rosemary Monk, June Bradley, Audrey Linney, Leon Bartosiak, Jane Cook, Sandra Hewett, Susan Deal, Lindsay Chalk, Carol McKells, Tony Rice-Oxley, Dick Handy, Jaye Warren (8 am), Bronwen Wood (8 am). Fr Mike asked for the list to be accepted in its entirety – proposed by Leon Bartosiak and seconded by Richard Spurgeon and agreed unanimously. Fr Mike asked whether there was anyone else who would like to be added to the sidespersons list. Adrienne Bridger and Elaine Shimbart volunteered and were duly elected. If anyone else would like to join please see Dick Handy.

10. **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

Churchwardens: Full report in the APCM report. Tony said that he had made a mistake in the first paragraph of the 3rd page which should read “new fires had to be bought at a cost of some £3000 ...” (not £6000). Tony said it has been a very busy and successful year and thanks to everyone who joined in and helped. Would like to reinforce thanks to Fr Mike, Fr Ray and their respective wives for all they do in supporting us in the parish.

Secretary/Treasurer's Annual Report: Jane Cook said there was nothing further to add to this report. Fr Mike expressed thanks to Jane for her work as Secretary of the PCC.

The rest of the reports are available in the Annual Report which you have downloaded or received a hard copy of. Fr Mike asked if anyone had any questions and none were put forward. Fr Mike said he wished to express his thanks to the PCC for letting him go on sabbatical and a big thank you to Fr Ray and June for all they had done during the 3 months that he and Lynda were away.

Hall Committee: Richard said he is delighted to have been elected Churchwarden and to be able to fulfil this role in the Church. It is very important that he lets us know that he is stepping down as Church Hall Manager. Anne Willoughby and David Cavey do a wonderful job and the PCC will take the decision about a new Hall Manager. Fr Mike expressed thanks to Richard and the Hall Committee for everything they have done.

11. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** cannot appoint an Independent Examiner at the moment due to the problems explained earlier by the Treasurer. The PCC will make a decision.

12. **COMMENTS FROM PARISH PRIEST:**

Curate – Fr Mike said he had some news which he had mentioned in his sermon this morning. St George's Waterlooville has been made a training parish by the Bishop and invited to have a curate and Fr Mike was asked to find a curate and has been seeing people over the last few months. He said it is a long time since we have had a curate in training. He will follow Fr Mike round for the first year and after 4 years will be looking for a Parish of his own. Portsmouth Diocese can only have 4 stipendiary curates in a year. Fr Mike has found someone. His name is Timon Singh and he is 47 years old and from Oxford. He is married and his wife is Noreen, and has 3 children Rachel who is at Oxford Brookes, Tabitha who is training to be a nurse and Benjamin who is still at school and hoping to go to Oaklands. The Diocese has bought a house near Oaklands School for them to live in. He will start in June and will be ordained Deacon on 29th June in the Cathedral.

Lynda Sheffield asked Fr Mike to explain the difference between a Deacon and a Priest. A Deacon is a priest in training and not able to celebrate the Eucharist. Assuming he passes his first year the Bishop

will ordain him a priest in June 2009.

Fr Mike said it is important we treat him well and help him as these first impressions will last throughout his ministry. Fr Mike said he remembers things the incumbent said to him in his first job as curate in Locks Heath and the way he was treated by the parishioners.

Fr Mike expressed thanks to everyone for their support and for the amount of work that is done at St Georges.

The meeting closed at 12:05 pm.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

Background

St George's Church has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (The Reverend Mike Sheffield) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the churchyard and church hall. During 2008 St George's held two services every Sunday (a said Eucharist at 8.00 am and a sung Eucharist at 10.00 am). Normally there has been an evening service at least twice a month with one being traditional evensong sung either by the Church choir or by the Church Singers. Other services have included a Taize service in March and October, special festival services and a healing Eucharist. Our partnership churches were invited to the Taize services and there was a good response with refreshments after the service. The Sunday School and Youth Club and Link Group were actively involved in the monthly Family Eucharists.

Membership

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Reverend Mike Sheffield Chairman

Fr Timon Singh, Assistant Curate

Ex Officio: Mrs Jane Cook (Secretary)

Mrs Carol McKells (Treasurer)

Wardens: Mrs Margaret Symonds

Mr Richard Spurgeon

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Lindsay Chalk

Linda Wainwright

Elected Members:

Mr Leon Bartosiak

Mr David Cavey

Mr Dick Handy

Mr David Hodgens

Mrs Mabel Maginn

Mr David Palmer

Mrs Denise Rosser

Mrs Elaine Shimbart

Mrs Julie Spurgeon

Co-opted Members:

Mr Colin Monk

Co-opted Hall Chairman

Outgoing Churchwarden:

Mr Tony Rice-Oxley

Committees

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

Church Attendance

There were 160 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of whom 80 were not resident within the parish. 8 people were added to the roll during 2008. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2008, was 100 adults and 15 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 76%. Fabric, Finance, Pastoral, 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 e-mailed to PCC members before the meeting to give people a chance to send any questions to Carol so they can be answered at the meeting and save time.

We have supported over 18 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £467 to the Children's Society (a large part of which came from a very successful Christingle Service on Christmas Eve), £460 to our linked parish, St. Mary Axim, Ghana, continued support of four children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included Church Urban Fund, Bishops Lent Appeal, Winstons Wish, Christian Aid, Rowans Hospice, Smile Train, Local Parishes, Water Aid, Cancer Research and Rocky Appeal. These were all retiring collections. Donations were also sent to Leprosy Mission, Naomi House, Biblelands, Burma Disaster Fund and the Royal British Legion. Money was constantly being raised for church funds over the year, in particular £3181 at the Summer Fete, £2019 at the Christmas Bazaar, £1240 from the St George's Auction Night and £2620 from the sale of plants, bulbs and votives throughout the year.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders has increased to £29501, excluding tax. The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £8488. £545, excluding tax, was raised on the St George's Day Gift Day. Contributions on the collection plate raised £1502.

£3471 was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St. George's Church, including the full contribution to the parish share of £48,597, an increase of 1.94%. Our remaining fund balances are invested with the CBF Church of England Investment and the Deposit account was closed after the balance of £1630.76 was withdrawn.

Dr Feri Eshraghi, FCA, was unable to complete the examination of the accounts for 2007 and Mr Gordon Beer MA (Cantab) FCA, kindly agreed to examine these after the APCM and has agreed to do this again for the 2008 Accounts. The PCC are very grateful to him for the time he has spent on this.

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

- St George's was made a training parish by the Bishop and we were invited to have a Curate. Fr Timon Singh and his family moved to St George's in June.
- Quinquennial inspection took place in November.
- The Parish breakfasts were still very popular and will continue
- Waterloo Music Festival – for the third year another very successful festival was held in June
- A Christmas concert was held on 5th December with 5 schools taking part. This was again very popular with several hundred people attending.
- A Church cleaning rota was set up earlier in the year with various groups cleaning the church on different times / days of the month.
- Travelling Nativity again went round the parish during advent and was very popular

On behalf of the PCC

Carol McKells, Treasurer
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed: _____
The Reverend Mike Sheffield

April 2009

Treasurer's Report 2008

Incorporating all the Church group finances with the main Church and Hall Accounts, the final figures show an overspend of £1731. If depreciation at 2% amounts to £3187, the overspend converts to an under spend of £1456. The 2008 figures also include a loan of £4000 from Hall funds. This amount was borrowed by the PCC account in order that the Parish Share could be paid in full. Without the support of the Hall, this would not have been achieved.

For another year St George's hosted the Waterloo Music Festival and the PCC received a very generous donation of £2000 from that source. Other major donations received included £588 from the 100 Club and £400 from the Social and Fundraising Committee. Also donated to the General Account was £750 from the Charities Aid Foundation and £166 from the Wednesday Coffee funds.

Donations from Planned Giving exceeded the budget by almost £1900 for which we received £8214 in Gift Aid tax recovery. (A slight decrease on 2007 of £136.)

Interest on bank and building society accounts amounted to £482 and the value of PCC investments has fallen by £16,930; the Investment fund is currently valued at £49,355. Throughout 2008 £2,300 was received as dividends.

In May 2008 the Church CBF Deposit Account was closed and the balance of £1630 credited to the main HSBC bank account.

Dividends earned on the Hall Deposit Account were re-invested and the current value of that account stands at £5135.

Fundraising again exceeded expectations by over £1100. Costs for fundraising mostly covered the purchase of bulbs, for which the PCC earned £2146 in bulb and plant sales, bringing a very good return on the initial outlay.

Charity giving exceeded £4,700 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 Accounts continue to include the 'Extra-ordinary' categories. These have again been used to record unbudgeted items and transfers between the two PCC bank accounts. The majority of the funds accounted for balance

each other out, but some major items of unbudgeted expenditure include £2,500 repairs to roofing and Architect's survey fee, which was carried out for the Quinquennial Inspection, costing almost £2000. The £4000 loan from Hall funds to the general PCC funds was also recorded here.

The budget for 2008 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 but will hopefully guide us through the year. 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 Mr Gordon Beer, MA (Cantab) FCA, 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
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2008**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2008 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2007 YEAR TOTAL
INCOME					
Planned Giving S/Orders	23,677.00		23,677.00	21,200.00	20,956.00
Planned Giving Green Env	5,899.68		5,899.68	6,500.00	
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	4,158.27		4,158.27	6,884.00	11,702.05
Gift Aid Tax	8,214.11		8,214.11	8,000.00	8,350.60
General Collections	1,502.25		1,502.25	1,750.00	1,777.58
Gift Days	545.00		545.00	750.00	746.00
Donations & Appeals	5,842.85	862.15	6,705.00	3,000.00	6,832.63
Bookstall	332.90		332.90	300.00	557.85
Parish Magazine Advertising	790.00		790.00	1,000.00	516.34
Parish Magazine Sales	452.04		452.04	500.00	477.38
Fees received (PCC)	3,061.00		3,061.00	3,000.00	4,434.00
Fees received (Assigned)	2,493.00		2,493.00	2,000.00	
Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising	9,072.84	28.00	9,100.84	8,000.00	10,689.06
Sales	2,620.26		2,620.26	3,000.00	3,500.76
Photocopying Income	440.79		440.79	150.00	46.96
Income from Investments/Bank	2,771.25	11.40	2,782.65	2,500.00	2,574.15
Sub totals			72,774.79	68,534.00	73,161.36
Other Funds (Charities)		3,593.15	3,593.15	No budget	4,303.94
Hall Lettings/Fundraising	11,478.11		11,478.11	No budget	8,824.87
Youth Group Activities		2,849.64	2,849.64	No budget	3,046.78
Ex.ord Income	16,264.06		16,264.06	No budget	10,615.28
Includes £4,000 from Hall Dep.					
Corrections and Adjustments					59.50
TOTALS	99,615.41	7,344.34	106,959.75	68,534.00	100,011.73

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2008**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2008 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2007 YEAR TOTAL
EXPENDITURE					
Parish Share	48,597.00		48,597.00	48,597.00	48,441.00
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance	2,776.56		2,776.56	2,750.00	2,531.48
Church and Grounds Maintenance	757.94		757.94	2,300.00	976.32
Clergy Expenses	2,723.18		2,723.18	3,000.00	2,793.49
Upkeep of Services	230.34	998.80	1,229.14	1,500.00	1,672.47
Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin	661.65		661.65	600.00	890.68
Piano and Organ tune	458.00		458.00	500.00	672.24
Honoraria and Salaries	3,297.50		3,297.50	3,600.00	4,244.70
Administration	1,912.96		1,912.96	1,500.00	1,640.16
Photocopier Costs	1,587.08		1,587.08	1,140.00	675.91
Assigned Fees	2,526.00		2,526.00	2,000.00	1,794.00
Fees paid out	930.00		930.00	1,200.00	
Capitation Fee	60.00		60.00	60.00	60.00
Sub totals			67,517.01	68,747.00	66,392.45
Ex.Ord. Outgoing	19,741.38	119.35	19,860.73	No budget	14,296.50
Hall Running Costs	8,804.46		8,804.46	No budget	10,876.52
Hall Depreciation @ 2%	3,187.00		3,187.00	No budget	3,252.00
Youth Group Activities		2,723.59	2,723.59	No budget	2,870.51
Fundraising Costs	1,817.58		1,817.58	No budget	1,915.29
Giving to Charities	1,272.05	3,471.20	4,743.25	No budget	4,613.55
Bank Interest and charges	37.27		37.27	No budget	
Fees to Fundraisers					735.91
Upkeep of PCC Property					50.00
Prior Year Adjustments					161.03
TOTALS	101,377.95	7,312.94	108,690.89	68,747.00	105,163.76

Churchwardens Report

One of our greatest pleasures in 2008 was to welcome to our parish a new curate for training. He was ordained at Petertide in Portsmouth Cathedral. Fr Timon and his family are contributing in many ways to the life of the parish and their friendship is greatly appreciated by us all. 2008 was for us a year of inspections, the first being the Archdeacon's Visitation. He was accompanied by the Rural Dean, the Rev Paul Moore. They completed the inspection of the church interior and its furnishings and plate and declared themselves pleased with their findings, complimenting St George's on its upkeep. Their only criticism being that of a less than up to date log book, which has since been rectified.

The Quinquennial Inspection by our newly appointed church architect, Daniel Forshaw, was completed in December and we subsequently received a very thorough and detailed report. The main comments to relate are that the church tower needs re-roofing and this may well require it to be encased in scaffolding. The back of the church, ie choir vestry to sacristy also needs attention to its roof, especially the window roof lights which have caused endless problems. Many more minor repairs are in hand thanks to a very supportive group of George's Men, to whom we are most grateful. The main problem is of course finding the funds to pay for all these urgent and essential repairs. We have been advised by the diocese that this is not the right time to be drawing on any reserves, in the form of stocks and shares. As it is we are barely making ends meet and have in fact a deficit budget for 2009.

We are happy to report that our congregation continues to grow as does the Sunday School. The dual teams of Sunday School teachers seems to be working well, as does the new arrangements for the seating of the children in the front rows of the church. The fundraising and social calendar remains full and varied. Occasional Parish Breakfasts are well supported, although the desired effect of mixing the 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock worshippers does not always occur.

The Waterlooville Music Festival has grown in popularity bringing new people into the church. A good balance was achieved between the music provided at lunch times and the evening concerts. Whilst the festival is not primarily a fundraising event, the contents of the donations container and other monies, £2,000 in total, were presented to the church and this covered photocopying, lighting and organ and piano tuning etc – a very useful sum for which we are most grateful.

The weekly cleaning teams seem to prove their worth, cleaning hard to reach areas and easing the task for the regular Holy Dusters. We are most grateful

to them all and welcome new volunteers to the teams, each of which only operates once a month. The broken stained glass windows, under the stairs have been repaired.

The church grounds have been tended by a small band, who mow and trim the grass and tend the flower beds making the area attractive to all who pass by or pause to take a break there. The Open Door policy of the church has been continued and is appreciated by those who drop in for a moment's peace and quiet. Prayer cards have been provided free for those who would like one.

Our Kairos Central Partnership held a successful strawberry tea party, in our hall, for almost 100 elderly people who infrequently get out and about. This together with an entertainment by local school children proved so popular that we have been asked to repeat the event this year. Later in the year a Kairos Quiz with American supper was hosted by All Saints Church, Denmead. The Churchwardens of the five churches meet regularly as do the clergy. Occasional joint services are planned such as a Healing Service, held at Denmead. Invitations to the other churches are sent when Taize style evening services are held at St George's.

The various committees of the church appear to be working smoothly and involve a large number of people, whether it is pastoral care, maintaining the hall, fundraising, arranging social events, cleaning, flower arranging, maintenance of church and grounds, tea/coffee making and serving and last but not least sacristans duties. To these unsung heroes we offer our appreciation and thanks. The services of every one of them are invaluable. A special mention should be made of the Youth Club workers who not only turn up week by week in term time but who also arrange canal holidays, camping weekends and other activities which involve much planning and responsibility. We particularly thank Tony and Jane Rice-Oxley and Jane Cook and all the other helpers and Fr Timon for agreeing to help out with the leadership. We encourage and welcome new volunteers for this essential part of our church mission.

We are very fortunate to have the services not only of Fr Mike and Fr Timon but also Bishop Godfrey Ashby, Fr Ray and Fr Mark. We thank them and their wives and family members for all they have done for us over the past year and wish them all good health in the year ahead.

Margaret Symonds / Richard Spurgeon

St George's Church Hall Report

It was after a great deal of arm bending that I "volunteered" to take on the Chairmanship of the Church Hall Committee last year. However, I must say that it has been a very rewarding year and one that has been made easy by virtue of having a very active Committee.

In May the Committee commissioned cupboards to be built in the committee room which has allowed this area to be tidied so that it can now be regularly used by the younger members of the Sunday School. At the same time the back kitchen has been turned into a storage area.

July saw a party of George's Men sinking nails in the main hall floor in preparation for the September weekend of sanding and varnishing. My thanks must go to the men who took part and also to Nikita for her advice and hard work. We have received many complimentary comments and hope that we can keep the floor looking good.

In September we were fortunate to be able to buy some "new" chairs from Knowle Village Hall via e-bay for a tenth of their new price. These are more comfortable than the others and appear to have been welcomed by users.

Maintenance is something that is always required and if members of the congregation note that something needs attention please let us know.

The hall is now regularly used during the week and here my thanks must go to our cleaner, Viv, for always keeping it looking so clean. My thanks also go to Anne Willoughby for continuing to look after bookings and to David Cavey for all his work in sending out accounts and looking after the books. Without their support, and the help of other members of the Committee (Tony Rice-Oxley, David Palmer, Julia and Richard Spurgeon and Denise Rosser), my role as Chairman would be very arduous.

Whilst the hall accounts might appear to show that we made a loss, this has only arisen as during the year we lent the PCC the sum of £4,000. In planning this year's budget the Committee are fairly confident that we will in future be able to make a contribution of £1,000 to the PCC each year.

One problem that we continually face as a Committee is the waste of gas and electricity where users leave the hall and do not turn off fires, lights or boiler in the kitchen. Could I please ask all users to make somebody responsible for checking these so that we do not get nasty shocks when the bills arrive.

Colin Monk
Chair, Hall Committee

The Mothers' Union Branch Report

We sadly lost two much loved members with the deaths of Joan Beddoe and Pamela Horton. Pamela had for a short period been our Hon Secretary and we miss them both. Membership stands at 23 which include two new members, Audrey Mentor and Gillian Griffiths plus the rejoining of Wendy Clark.

We have in addition two Diocesan Members in our congregation and are currently seeking for more people, who support the work of the MU, to become **Friends of the MU** at the cost of £18 per annum.

The two members Dorothy Bailey and Nora Parkes, who reside in care homes, are doing well and are very keen to have visitors. Dorothy keeps busy knitting teddies and tea cosies.

As is usual our programme is planned for a mixture of fun and for more serious reflection. We began the year with an Epiphany Party, to which women from The Sacred Heart, Baptist, and three local Anglican churches were invited. The Branch Outing took us to a pub. for lunch, near Petersfield and on to Selborne for a visit to The Wakes museum and grounds, where we had tea before ending the day with Compline in the village church. Once again our Garden Party was held, with invited guests, at the home of Jennefer Higginbottom, where £185.70 was raised for the MU Overseas Development Fund. Coffee mornings were held in February and September with £50 being sent to the diocesan Wedding Project and £60 to AFIA the local holiday scheme. In April Pam Dinneen and Jean Goddard entertained us with a pleasant afternoon of 'Music of my choice'

The 'highlight' of the year was a Quiet Day, held at the home of Pam Dinneen and led by Sandra Goodey. It involved meditation, music, and self expression in the form of art work of various forms, culminating in a short act of worship. Members have requested that we hold a similar day in 2009.

We heard about the Union of Catholic Mothers from Mary Wilkinson and the experiences of a Hospital Chaplain from the Revd Jane Richards. The Lenten Meditation was led by Revd Sandra Edwards and we looked at the theme for the year, 'Time for Relationship,' under the direction of Sandra Goodey. The year ended with 'An Advent Journey.' which we hope will be used by the church next Advent.

Stalls were held at the Church Summer Fete,' Tins and Things' and at the Christmas Bazaar where £163 was raised on the 'Home made cake stall.' and £125 from second hand jewellery.

With other members of the Deanery we attended the Lady Day Service (Emsworth), the Mary Sumner Day Service (St Mary's Portsea) and the Summer service and Strawberry Tea (Bedhampton) and a lovely outing to Tewkesbury.

The Diocesan Festival Service held in the Cathedral was preceded by the launch of an Art Exhibition by the bishop and MU members of Malakal, Sudan, with whom our diocese is linked. Karen Lewis of Christian Aid provided a power point presentation of Malakal during the Service. An Environmental Day was held at St George's Portsea, where Revd Karina Green provided the power point presentation in the absence of Revd Andrew Norris, who was ill. The Revd Nick Ralph and reps. from Traidcraft, WDM and green issues also contributed.

In all it has been a varied, enjoyable and productive year. We always welcome visitors and members of all ages and gender to our meetings.

Margaret Symonds
Branch Leader

Pastoral Committee

We have continued with our popular Taize style services and increasing numbers, especially for our last service, gives this style of worship an added value to our church community.

The St George's Church Prayer Card for visitors and congregation continue to be very popular so it is hoped to follow this shortly with Post Cards of our church which can be purchased by congregation or visitors.

We again hosted the very popular and successful School's Music Concert at Christmas with, again very significant numbers with over 250 children and adults present. In the run up to Christmas in 2008, we also initiated a "Shoe Box" collection for parcels of toys and presents to be sent to poorer countries. It is hoped to repeat this again for Christmas 2009.

Our Parish Breakfast events continue to be very successful and are well attended. Although there is no charge, monies raised through donations help to provide funding for some of the smaller expenses we have (Post Baptism cards and postage for example) with the remainder helping to boost general

church funds. Rosemary Monk has now taken on the role of “Dove Master” with responsibility for ensuring contact with post baptismal families through the Dove Tree and cards.

We investigated the possibilities of running an After School Club however this proved to extremely difficult to establish due to leadership shortages. The parent and toddler services however, are now taking place at periodic intervals.

Although it has proven very difficult to implement a full “Buddy System”, we are now publishing regular reminders in our weekly bulletin for people to advise us when they know of someone missing, ill or infirm..

Through the next year we have a few projects: the creation of an enhanced “Welcome Booklet”, Church Postcards and support for the 40th Anniversary celebrations being planned for 2010.

I feel is appropriate to mention that it is with sadness we note the death of Leon, a valued member of our Pastoral Committee.

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

My role is to visit our younger Congregation Youth Club, Sunday school and Band on the evenings they get together, observing and having a chat with them. If any issues come to light, I then take them to the pastoral committee, non pastoral issues being further carried to the full P.C.C.

This last year has been difficult health wise for me, but I am keen to take up my role again and keep our children and young people happy and safe.

Sandra Hewett
Youth Coordinator

Child Protection

There is a legal requirement that all volunteers who work with children and young people are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Since my last report, I have continued to be very busy checking volunteers into their new roles, processing the necessary forms which I then send to be countersigned by the Diocese of Portsmouth. The forms are then sent to the CRB for clearance.

I hope to continue this role with the support of the Pastoral committee and PCC.

Sandra Hewett
Child Protection Representative

St George's Ladies' Group

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month and our selected charity for 2008 was the "Rosemary Foundation". Our January meetings saw a talk called "Old Hall" Tableware when the speaker was Owen Rigby and an Auction and Cheese and Wine Evening. In February there was a talk by Owen Neal on Heath Robinson and one on the Paris to Hayling Cycle Race.

In March we had a talk by Mrs Short on the Titchfield Tapestry and also one on Doorstep Crime by the Trading Standards Service. Our first meeting in April was a Skittles night at Southwick Park and later in the month a talk by Liz Goddard on Mercy Ships Charity. In May there was a talk by Jan Parkin on Holistic Therapy and one by "Allison" florist of Cowplain on Flowers.

In June we had our AGM and a Bring and Buy and then a Charity Presentation Supper when we presented the Rosemary Foundation with £600. We had one meeting in July for our end of season supper at the Woodpecker followed by the summer break in August.

September saw a cruise to Beaulieu and a talk by Linda Wilkinson on the Chichester Ship Canal. In October there was a talk by R Burton on British Currency – Forgery and then a talk by Richard Sally from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

In November we had a talk by Owen Rigby on Old Hall Tableware and later in the month an open meeting with the Phoenix Singers. Our Christmas

Dinner on 4th December was held at The Forest of Bere. As you can see another busy year.

Mrs Anne Brown
Chairperson

George's Men

The Georges Men's group continued to enjoy a number of outings throughout the year from the "traditional" brewery visits, cribbage evenings and cricket at the Edge of Beyond to a variety of new and exciting social evenings. Due to the number of events held this year, I have decided to highlight the events that I believed were the most memorable.

During the summer, we were fortunate that the weather permitted us to visit the Chip and Putt in Southsea and an evening playing lawn bowls at the Waterlooville Bowling club.

Our visit to the Chip and Putt in July was very enjoyable. Some people had not played golf before which was evident by the number of "fresh air" shots taken before the ball was finally launched off the tee. Unfortunately not all shots were in the direction of the green, hence the George's men could be seen marching off in all directions in search of their little white ball. The course itself is quite restricted, so you have fairways running very close to each other and even crossing over at one point. With golf balls flying through the air in all directions, or should I say "along the ground at high speed seeking out unexpected knee caps or shins", it was very intimidating at times. Fortunately no one was injured and we did not cause any damage outside of the course by misdirected shots flying over the boundary fence. The finale of the evening was a splendid shot on the last hole by Richard Spurgeon, which ended up three foot from the pin. (I think even Nick Faldo would have been very pleased with that performance). After the golf, we retired to the nearby Eastney Tavern for a buffet meal and a well-deserved pint, where David Cavey was congratulated on winning the best individual score at the golf.

In August Len Palmer invited the George's men to an evening playing lawn bowls at the Waterlooville Bowling Club. After a briefing on the rules of the game and some basic instructions on how to hold the bowl (wood), we eagerly formed two groups and set off to show each other our hidden skills. Initially due to a damp surface, it was quite difficult to judge the speed required to position the bowl near to the Jack which resulted in many of us either ending up well short of the Jack or in the ditch at the back of the green. After a few games we were soon familiar with the green, however it was

noticeable that some people had not listened to Len's "wise" words on how to hold the bowl and watched in dismay as their bowl curved in the opposite direction from the intended path, only to come to rest on the adjacent rink much to the disgust of the other teams.

Our October event saw the Georges men helping the Tweenies at a Pickle Night to bake and bottle pickles for the Christmas Bazaar. With so many onions to prepare, it was a very "tearful" time for those undertaking the preparation of the onions.

In November, the Georges men visited St John's church in neighbouring Purbrook for an evening ringing the Purbrook Bells with the St John's Bell ringers. As part of our visit, we were given a daunting challenge of climbing up to the upper tower where we were able to view the bells and were given the history behind the original bells being replaced in 1999 with a peal of six new bells to celebrate the Millennium. Once back in the comfort of the lower level we were all given a chance to try our hand at ringing a bell.

The final event of the year was the Christmas supper and skittles evening at the Barley Mow in Walderton. The evening was full of fun and laughter as the George's men challenged each other to become "King of the Skittles". Numerous levels of skills were displayed from full strikes to total misses, including one player (who shall remain nameless) who attempted to strike the pins with a ricochet off a windowsill. After several rounds, the knock out was won by Timon in a closely contested final against Leon.

On behalf of all the George's men, we would like to thank all the members who organised these enjoyable events and look forward to another successful year in 2009.

Trevor Oberholster
George's Men

Tweenies

After the Skittles evening in January, Lent was upon us so early in 2008 and the Tweenies enjoyed looking at the Lord's Prayer for the 5 weeks. It is great that each week, a different leader led the session, thus spreading the load.

Lindsay welcomed the group to her house in the summer and Lynda gave a short talk about the time that she and Fr. Mike had spent in New Zealand. Music and fireworks at Stansted were very popular in July and this trip will be repeated again in 2009, the evening being opened up to other members of the congregation.

However, the Tweenies aren't lucky with summer walks - yet again the walk had to be cancelled due to the rain - maybe third time lucky in 2009. Artistic talent excelled whilst card-making with Sue Palmer and also pottery-painting with Lisa. The pottery went off to the kiln and the results were very encouraging. It was one of those evenings that everyone enjoyed and surprised themselves.

The group has seen heartache and sickness this year and my hope is that the members feel some comfort in meeting together and supporting each other in difficult times. This was borne out particularly during the retreat at East Cowes in May, with members feeling able to discuss their joys and sad times in a confidential environment. Fr. David Gibbons, from St. Faith's, Havant led the retreat and we laughed, cried, read, slept, walked, danced, prayed, drank and ate - all in copious quantities. It was one very special weekend.....

Lynda Sheffield

Walsingham Cell Report

It is with great sadness that Yvonne Jones was unable to join the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham in 2008, due to ill health. She has been the secretary of the St. George's cell for many years and has cajoled, persuaded, and co-ordinated the pilgrims during that time. Whilst we were at Walsingham, we raised our glasses to her, in her absence.

13 pilgrims made the trip this year - the number seems to seesaw depending on when school holidays fall. Much work is happening at the Shrine - mostly to increase accommodation and comfort for the pilgrims. Compared with 30 years ago, when we had to queue in the rain for a rather small unexciting meal, the food now is lavish and can be accompanied by a glass of wine. The rooms are very comfortable and warm and this all helps to create a good environment for worship. There is a lot of varied worship, ranging from a high mass to a quiet, healing Eucharist and many of Fr. Mike's favourite pastimes - the procession!

The motto is "we pray hard and we play hard." One of the joys is that of meeting other pilgrims from St. Alban's, West Leigh and St. Faith's, Havant. Sharing worship together, then playing a daft game of 'swot the lemon' all together makes the weekend very enjoyable. If you've never been, consider a trip in 2010. It is always the weekend after Easter.

Lynda Sheffield

Church Flower Fund

The flower fund is looking fairly healthy at the time of writing. Thank you to those who have given so generously to the fund and to Lynn, Sue, Margaret, Sandra, Lesley and Margaret for their valuable help throughout the year. We have a good supply of artificial flowers for when the fund is low and for keeping uniformity of colour at weddings.

Garden flowers are always welcome.

June Diaper

Bible Reading Fellowship

The overall number of people subscribing to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes remains at 15. The new subscription year starts with the May 2009 issue priced at £3.70, the group discount rate, and covers a 4 month period. I have free sample copies available and can easily arrange for new subscriptions at any time.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

There have been four meetings this year, the first being on 10 June 2008 at St Johns, Rowlands Castle. The Rev'd Stephen Girling (Rural Dean Fareham) gave a presentation on "Growing Leaders" and introduced a year long course developed by the Church Pastoral Aid Society, which is running successfully in his Deanery, with the aim to develop shared leadership for the church.

Elections took place and Tony R-O gave a Deanery Finance Report as treasurer and also reported that the Havant Deanery Parish share payments remained on track to be paid up in full.

The target for the Koforidua Palm Oil Project of £3680 has been achieved and £2000 paid over but Angela Herring (Denmead) who visited in April 2008 reported the project will not start for 3 years and the housing had not been completed, only materials and a water pump had so far been purchased but the palms can be harvested and a small profit has already been made. The idea of the project is to help the Koforiduan help themselves and all Parishes were thankful for their support.

The second meeting was held at St Peters, Hayling on 24th September 2008. The Rev'd Dennis Lloyd, Mission Resources Advisor gave an overlong talk and slide presentation on "Stewardship" defined as "to resource God's Mission with money, time & talents" emphasising that we should not concentrate solely on finance.

The Rev'd Phillip Cochrane as a member of the Diocesan Liturgy and Worship Advisory Group (DILWAG) spoke about the group providing information for those directly involved in acts of worship. Elections took place and there was an update on deanery accounts, parish share and Koforidua funds.

Prior to the Lambeth Conference 10 bishops were entertained on Hayling including Bishop Francis from Koforidua.

Next we met at Hart Plain Church on 27th November 2008. The presentation was by Gareth Denby a further education advisor on chaplaincy in further education, this is not yet funded by the diocese but supported by the colleges, 2 of the 7 colleges are in our deanery, more chaplains are wanted and can be lay people.

A written finance report was given and a request for any outstanding Koforidua payments. On Kairos, Grant Schemes are available for mission only projects, and DVD's and handbooks on the Kairos Building were issued. The Deanery Pastoral Committee had looked into clergy deployment and ministerial needs to cover St Faiths interregnum and Purbrook.

The last meeting was at All Saints Denmead on 26th February 2009. The presentation was from Susan Barry from Christian Aid South West to talk on Christian Aid week in the way of a film show and quiz. Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by churches and all faith groups. As well as providing relief, there are representatives in Iraq, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. Christian Aid also deals in climate change, governance and democracy buildings. 10% of their income comes from legacies and one sobering fact is that 850 million people go to bed hungry every night.

Tony R-O presented the Deanery accounts which were approved at the meeting. Havant Deanery were congratulated for paying 100% of the parish share for 2008 but concern was expressed for 2009.

Koforidua funds stand at £4424 but no further monies will be released until another evaluation takes place.

The west of Waterlooville Developments Committee met and despite the delays a Church School and funded Church worker remain.

There is to be a mission and discipleship forum on 10th March looking at training available to Lay and Clergy.

A report followed from the Diocesan Synod meeting on 21st February regarding Bishops Kenneth's retirement

The final report of a long agenda gave a brief resume of the recent 5 day General Synod and full minutes will be circulated soon.

Linda Wainwright and Lindsay Chalk

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

The new magazine cycle of six issues per annum has now bedded down and is working well. We have a reasonable flow of original material for publication but always welcome more articles especially from new contributors. For copyright reasons, contributions must be original work or carry the permission of the author.

Publication dates have been rescheduled this year to more closely co-incide with Easter and Christmas, and these are: Winter issue, 1st February; Easter issue, 1st April; Festival issue, 1st June; Summer issue, 1st August; Autumn issue, 1st October; Christmas issue 1st December.

Over the past year the Magazine has also built up a reasonable level of advertising, but in the present economic climate retaining this advertising is difficult and so any help in finding or identifying possible new advertisers will be really helpful. The magazine contributes around £800 per year to church funds and for this to continue a good level of advertising is essential. Please speak to our Advertising Manager Tony Rice-Oxley if you have any ideas for new advertisers.

The Magazine is both very grateful and dependant upon those members of the congregation who help to distribute it and sell it outside of the church community where it achieves one of its prime functions as a means of outreach. Anyone willing to help in this task, please speak to our Distribution Manager Fiona Ross.

The print run is currently around 220 copies per issue, but additionally each issue has around 5000 readers via the website, which is an area we aim to develop and improve over the course of time. There are lots of ideas, it's just

finding time to implement them. Again, anyone interested in helping will be very welcome! As it is, there is a lot on the website that you may not realise is there and that you could find useful. Apart from the magazines themselves (going back to 1997) – where photographs can be seen in colour – there is the weekly bulletin and a full and comprehensive calendar/diary of all forthcoming church events. There is also a photogallery, a means of contributing to church funds, and a link to the Waterlooville Music Festival with full details of the programme and an On-Line booking service, and much more.

Finally, an appeal to please join the St George's News email address system – we are trying to get everyone with an email to have a St George's email address so that it is easy to know where to send an email to anyone – if you are yet to register please do so by sending your email address to feedback@stgeorgesnews.org ... and if you already have a St George's News email address, a reminder please to let us know if your primary email address changes.

Thanks for your support – if you are interested in the magazine and would like to get more involved please let us know.

John Johnson

St George's Servers

St George's remains fortunate to have a large number of servers prepared to assist the clergy at the Eucharist, and other services when called upon to do so. Our preparation for worship is no different to that of the congregation. After checking that everything is in place for the service, we say our prayers both before and after the service, and are invariably joined by the clergy for these before the service.

We welcomed Lindsay Chalk to the serving team and were fortunate enough not to have lost any servers from the team. Lindsay was also admitted as a probationer to The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary at the June meeting at Racton, and then promptly went on to win at skittles later on in the evening! In September last year, Dick Handy and Richard Spurgeon were admitted as full members of the Guild at the Portsmouth Chapter's 107th Anniversary Mass.

St George's servers are by far and away the largest contingent of the Portsmouth Chapter of The GSS, and regularly assist at the various services, either serving, or reading the intercessions.

I am extremely grateful for the patience extended by the various thurifers to the children who have undertaken the duty of boat boy/girl. My thanks to Lauren, Amy, Katherine, Francesca, Augustine and Daniel for enhancing the Eucharist in their own individual ways. If any other children would like to be part of the "smoke team" please let me know, and I will arrange it.

The serving team also meet socially at least twice a year, and after the evensong service dedicated to the servers, we went back to Lesley and Dick Handy's for an evening BBQ. It was during the evening that Fr Ray challenged me to a bowls match, which we hope to keep as a fun annual event.

I am grateful to Adrienne who prepares the rota for the Wednesday services, and to Anne & Abi who assist me in preparing the rotas for the other services. If anyone would like to join the serving team, please let me know. You will receive all the training you need to assist at the altar.

As ever, I am extremely grateful for the support of all the servers and clergy over the last year

David Palmer
Head Server

Sunday School

During the past year Sunday school has slowly been increasing in size. We now have a regular group of 22 children. Currently we have a split of about 14 children in Sunday school and 8 in the crèche.

Due to the number of children we took the decision to split into groups and originally used a set of books 'Pebbles' 'Rocks' and 'Boulders'. Although working in the groups was good we did not find the material in the books was working as well as we would have liked. We have recently decided to change from this material to 'Scripture Union' and we will continue working in our groups.

We also had the issue of the age of the children that were coming into Sunday school and after a meeting with the parents, Father Mike, Father Timon, and the Sunday school leaders it was decided that we would introduce a crèche for the younger members of our congregation. Colin Monk very kindly sorted out the committee room and we now put out toys and books for them in there, leaving the main hall free for the older children. We have given the guideline that once the children are able to sit in Sunday school on their own and understand that they need to listen, they are ready to

join the main group. So far this seems to be working well. The children in the crèche are happy and the children in Sunday school are working well and are starting to contribute to the seasons. We are hoping in the coming year to be able to purchase some more biblical books and puzzles to go in the crèche as well as some posters to make the room more welcoming.

In the main group we are still working in 3 groups the younger group caters for 3 to 6 year olds, the middle group 7 to 10 year olds and the older group caters for 10+ years. Although we have these ages as a guideline we look at each child individually and assess their ability and put them into whichever group we feel they will work best in. We currently have a leader and a helper in the youngest group and then 1 leader in the other two groups and we work on a rota of every other week. If anyone would be interested in joining the team, we would make them most welcome.

Our last week before the summer break was the family service in July and after the service we had a party. We played games in the church grounds and every child won a prize of some sort. We also had a treasure hunt and the words that they found spelt out a message for the child from the leaders and clergy wishing them happy holidays. We all sat down to a lunch which the children had brought with them and a good time was had by all.

At Christmas the children worked very hard to prepare their Christmas play for the crib service on Christmas Eve. This year we acted out the story of 'Angie the Littlest Angel'. They all did really well and there was a lot of glitter sprinkled everywhere. For the first time we had members of the Sunday school narrating the story and it was enjoyed by everyone.

Since the introduction in church of the collection bags, we too have started collection envelopes for the children. They have biblical pictures on and the children have the choice to put a bit of their pocket money in the envelope and make their own contribution to the church.

We are now starting the Sunday school at 9.45am to enable us to have a bit longer with the children, so that we can achieve more with them. We are also sitting in the front pews, children 8 and above in the left hand side, children 4 to 7 on the right hand side and pre-school children in the carpeted area. This means that they are able to see what is going on in the Eucharistic prayer. We feel that this important to all the children but in particular those who have been confirmed and those children who are preparing for confirmation, of which we have 3, to understand the importance of the Eucharist Prayer.

We hope that over the coming year the Sunday school will continue to grow and that the children will benefit from the changes we are making.

Dawn Trimby and the Sunday School Teams

Youth Club

Our Youth club continues to operate most Friday evenings and still has around 20 members despite quite a change round of children. Over the year we said goodbye to Matthew Shier, Fred Austin, Georgina and Rees Laming, Daniel Stead, Stuart Cook, Christine Wright, Fleur Williams, Daniella Dzinkunoo, Daisy Stokes, Kerry Amor, Billie Goodall, Charlotte Stead and Sarah and Laura Forbes. In their place we have welcomed Leonna and Caitlynn MacGuire, Euan Beaden, Elliott Crook, Phoebe Burt, Hazel Beaden and Georgina Cox. Our regular weekly activities continue to include quizzes, party games and sports games, (badminton, hockey, football, volleyball etc.) cooking, skating, ten pin bowling and swimming, party nights as well as our traditional beach party and video evenings (to name but a few). As forecast in last year's report we have ceased buying the Rock Solid religious based programme while we use up unused sessions and we now include 2 of these a term.

We had a superb visit to the Frigate HMS Lancaster in February and members were treated to a full tour of the ship and some snacks in the crews mess. We received a ships crest and photo which are now proudly displayed on our notice board.

Our four day canal boat trip last Easter was another success with many new children coming along for the first time. Our trip this time was on the River Wey and a full account can be seen in the Festival copy of our church magazine. Thanks to Candy and John who came along and skippered the second boat.

Sadly the Fordingbridge cycling weekend at the end of May had to be cancelled, for the first time ever, due to bad weather. The early weather predictions for the weekend were so dire that we cancelled on the Thursday evening remembering last year's desperate need for us to go and seek shelter in the Romsey Rapids swimming pool for a few hours. In the event the weather forecast proved none too bad which was unfortunate. Don't bank on the weather forecast when making decisions!

The once monthly Family Eucharist is a must for members and most third Sundays will find them on duty at the door and/or taking an active part in the

service. This is quite a challenge for some of them as they do not know many people in church and in most cases are not regular church based children.

Our regular fundraising race night in March was again very successful adding £420 to youth club funds and to support the canal boat holiday, and our traditional fundraising bonfire night in aid of Naomi House raised £175.

It is now 15 years since Jane and I took over the organisation and running of the youth club and we have both enjoyed it greatly. However we feel that the time is rapidly approaching when someone else might be persuaded to take over the reins. We are thus on the lookout for someone to come and share the leadership role for a year or two with a view to taking over the running it altogether. We realise that this is a big ask but hopefully someone out there will be prepared to come along to see how things happen and maybe consider the task.

Again we must thank our helpers without whom Youth Club would not be able to exist. Many people come along to help but again 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. Father Timon has also begun to come and help and with a recent influx of volunteers to come along as helpers we are well placed in this regard.

Again 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

St George's Choir

We continue as a small but committed group, doing our best to enhance the music at St George's.

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

Our junior members continue to make good progress with their singing. Youngsters lead increasingly busy lives, trying to juggle all their various activities and schoolwork and we thank them for the commitment they show to the choir.

A big thank you must go to Cecil Wilman for his continued dedication as Director of Music and to Fr Mike for his support.

We would also 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.

Julia Spurgeon
Junior Choir Trainer

St George's Band

Earlier this year I wrote to the local Secondary schools, Portsmouth Music Centre, Havant Clarinet & Saxophone Choir all in the hope that we could gain members but all to no avail.

There has been very little change to the band over the past year. We still have the committed few who try very hard not to let the band down. Our members stand at 6 with Julia, Richard, Steve, Cat, Lizzie and Nerys with Jess and Don being our substitutes and filling out the band whenever they can. I have a spare clarinet and flute and 2 spare keyboards with nobody to play them!

The worry is that as Cat and Lizzie get older their GCSE and 'A' Level work may mean they might need to leave the band and further on still, going on to university will almost certainly mean they will need to leave the band. With no new members it would be unbalanced to run the band with the remaining 4.

We have reduced rehearsals to fortnightly in an attempt to get all of us to attend the rehearsals at the same time and also to give an extra evening free every other week to everyone in the band who are already very committed to other things. Therefore, the band are currently meeting every Wednesday fortnight for 1 hour from 7.30-8.30pm.

We hope that others will consider joining the band, both adults and youngsters with this small commitment of only 1 hour every fortnight and playing once a month at the Family Eucharist will encourage anyone who can play an instrument to join us.

Sue Palmer

St George's Social and Fundraising Committee

The year began with the traditional show staged by St George's Players at the beginning of January which was well supported. The Burns Night took place on January 26th. It is a shared event between St George's and the Waterlooville Twinning Association and the proceeds were divided which brought in £203. It was well attended and has become a firm favourite in the year's calendar.

The February Wine Tasting evening raised £205 with everyone enjoying a searching quiz on grape, cost and nationality of each of the six wines produced by David Cavey. The Parish Lunch on 20th April was attended by 66 adults, 3 children and 8 guests. It made £235 of which £100 went as first prize for the fete raffle.

The Parish outing this year was a superb visit to Windsor Castle which ended with a choral evensong in the Royal Chapel. The coach was subsidised from Social funds.

The Fete came at the end of the Waterlooville Music Festival and raised over £3,000, easily a record result. It helps the proceeds of the raffle to have the raffle tickets on sale throughout the Festival! It was decided by the committee to have a fundraising sub-committee which would have responsibility for the Fete, Bazaar, Auction or Shop, Bonus Ball club and any other fund raisers. The Auction on 12th July had a really good diverse catalogue and raised £1119, well done donators and bidders.

We held an Old Folk's Tea Party which was a Kairos sponsored event and therefore should not really be reported on here, but in case it isn't mentioned anywhere else, and as we hosted it....it was great fun! In September St George's sent a team of 6 to cycle round the churches in the diocese for Historic churches. They visited 26 Churches and raised £330 of which half was returned to the church and half went to the Historic Churches Funds. Our Harvest weekend was held in September and a 'Harvest' Race Night raised £337.

The Parish Trip to Belgium took place in October. It was very interesting with trips to Sluys, Bruges and Brussels and had something for everyone including a dance in the hotel bar to celebrate Ruby's 101st birthday! Our Bazaar at the beginning of December raised over £2,000....where did it all come from??

The Bonus Ball club started at the beginning of December and presents £100 every 10 weeks to the church as well as the prizes to its members. There are a few free numbers if anyone else is interested. We provided the punch for the Carol service, as usual.

The Film Club continues to flourish showing films that are voted for by its small, contented membership on the first Wednesday in every month. New members would be very welcome. Our tea and coffee mornings continue to be an excellent outreach and pay regular amounts into church funds. Overall another very full and busy social and fundraising year I think you will agree.

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 £588.05 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 2008 TO 31 DECEMBER 2008						
EXPENDITURE			INCOME			
PRIZE MONEY PAID OUT		£580.00	BALANCE AT 1.1.08			£427.00
DONATION TO PCC		£588.05	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID			£1,076.00
BANK AT 31.12.08		£344.00	BANK INTEREST			£9.05
CASH AT 31.12.08		£0.00				
		£1,512.05				£1,512.05
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION						
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP			LIST OF WINNERS			
			JANUARY	93	M. DEAL	£10.00
JANUARY	99			58	W. PEARCE	£5.00

FEBRUARY	96		FEBRUARY	46	Y. JONES	£10.00
MARCH	96			34	G. HANLON	£5.00
APRIL	95		MARCH	92	J. HIGGINBOTTOM	£75.00
MAY	95			32	B. WOOD	£15.00
JUNE	95		APRIL	62	C. BRADLEY	£10.00
JULY	97			15	K. BURTON	£5.00
AUGUST	97		MAY	46	Y. JONES	£10.00
SEPTEMBER	97			18	R. BULLOCK	£5.00
OCTOBER	97		JUNE	91	J. PEARCE	£75.00
NOVEMBER	96			94	L. SHEFFIELD	£10.00
DECEMBER	99		JULY	26	A. WILLOUGHBY	£10.00
				35	A. CLARK	£5.00
	1177		AUGUST	51	R. PALMER	£10.00
				30	T. ALLISON	£5.00
			SEPTEMBER	69	S. ALLISON	£75.00
				52	P. DINNEEN	£10.00
			OCTOBER	67	S. HARRIS	£10.00
				82	A. BRIDGER	£5.00
			NOVEMBER	49	J. JOHNSON	£10.00
				22	J. RICE-OXLEY	£5.00
			DECEMBER	92	J. HIGGINBOTTOM	£100.00
				8	S. ANDREWS	£60.00
				67	S. HARRIS	£30.00
				78	M. CAVEY	£10.00
						£580.00