



**Parish Church of
St Peter and St Paul, River**

We worship and witness to the Living God

Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday April 25th 2010,
following Morning Worship
at 10.00 a.m.
in Church**

Please bring this booklet with you to the Meeting

St Peter and St Paul's Church, River
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended 31st December 2009.

Administrative Information

St Peter and St Paul's Church is situated in Minnis Lane, River. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 23 Lewisham Road, River.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from January 1st 2009 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	The Revd Andy Bawtree MA, BD. Chair	
Readers:	Mr Don Soppitt Mr Nigel Collins Ms Lynne Watson	From April 2009 From July 2009 Elected 2007 Reader from 2009
Wardens:	Mr Chris Hurling Mrs Janet Parrett	
Authorised Lay Children's Minister	Mrs Josie Harding	
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mr Tim Moseling Mrs Margaretta Bundy Mr Nigel Curtis	
Elected Members	Mr Paul Bailey Mr Peter Cotterrill Mr Nigel Curtis Mrs June Dyer	
Secretary	Mrs Gill Rowland Mr Ralph Harding Mrs Phyllis Ives Mr Vic Parrett Mrs Celia Powell Mr Nicholas Prebble Mrs Sheila Swan Mrs Naomi Varty Mrs Elizabeth Weaver	From April 2009 Until April 2009 Until April 2009 From April 2009
Co-Opted Members	Mr Adrian Fellows	Treasurer

Aims and Purposes

The PCC works with the incumbent to promote in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It is responsible for the upkeep of the church and the Christian Centre attached to it.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to encouraging as many people as possible to worship in our church and to become part of the parish community. When planning our worship and activities, the PCC considers the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Achievements and Performance

The four Sundays in October brought an average attendance of 144 adults and 28 under 16s.

At the APCM last year it was reported that there were 164 names on the Electoral Roll. Since then there have been five deletions. Sadly, during the year Rosemary Carter and Bob Williams have died. The other three are in respect of those who no longer worship with us. As at 6th April 2010 there have been 23 names added bringing the total on Roll to 182, with nearly half living within the parish.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met six times during the year following the 2009 APCM with an average attendance of 69%. In most cases the meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Standing Committee, comprising the Vicar, Treasurer, Wardens, Secretary and Mr Parrett (co-opted). These meetings reviewed any issues that had arisen since the last PCC and set the Agenda for the next.

Financial matters were regularly discussed at PCC. There was concern at the Diocese's huge budgetary deficit and the impact that was having on ministry, not least the redundancies of the Youth Minister and Children's Minister. In November 2009 Crosslinks, Madagascar, Mission Aviation Fellowship and The Barnabas Trust each received £1000 as part of our tithed charitable giving: Poverty and Hope and Operation Sunshine were also smaller beneficiaries. As a parish we have continued to respond to need at times of humanitarian crisis, such as the Haiti Earthquake with collections in church, and to support other causes such as the Shoe Box Appeal, this year sending 140 boxes. A full financial report is attached.

Regular reports were received on the fabric of the church and, having changed our surveyor to Mr David Jarrett of Warner and Partners in Rochester, a Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in January 2010. The Report was complimentary about the general upkeep of the church, but raised issues regarding the porch, which would need immediate attention, and other areas requiring attention within the next few years. The main roof will also need replacing in the next ten years or so and there is damp in the choir vestry. In response to this, and in anticipation of the work to be

done, a committee comprising the Vicar, Wardens, Mr Nigel Curtis and Mr Maurice Smith has been established. Further details may be found in the Fabric Report included with this booklet.

The Ministry to Children featured at PCC meetings, and Mr Harding took his last SupaClub meeting. His many years of service to the young people of our Church was acknowledged with a presentation after church. The PCC also received a presentation about the work with the older young people in our Church. Josie Harding and Phyllis Ives reported on a Child Protection Conference and the PCC also considered the needs of Vulnerable Adults.

The long awaited AVA system was finally installed and, after the inevitable teething troubles, has provided far better sound and visual enhancement for our worship.

In July Lynne Watson was Licensed as a Reader. In this month also the PCC went on an Away Day to consider the concept of "Family" both within our own family and the family of the church. We explored relationships and how to rebuild and renew the families of which we are part.

"The Gathering", a big event in our Diocese, was well supported by members of Ss Peter and Paul. The Harvest Service on "Back to Church" Sunday was well attended as were all the services over the festival periods. On Remembrance Sunday twelve organisations took part in the act of remembrance. We continue to work closely with River Methodist Church, with many services and events held jointly.

Financial Review Funds.

The General Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are **not** subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purpose of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are included in the Restricted Funds.

The funds of the PCC are maintained in a "Community Account" (current account) on which **no** interest is paid, and a "Business Premium Account" (deposit account) on which interest **is** paid, at Barclays Bank plc. The interest gained on the Business Premium Account is treated as part of the General Funds income.

It is our policy to invest our fund balances with the CBF (Central Board of Finance) Church of England Funds.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to endeavour to maintain a balance at all times of £15,000 in unrestricted funds to cover emergency situations. This sum should be subject to review annually.

Accounts and Financial Statement

A financial statement and copy of the independently examined accounts is attached to this document.

Approved by the PCC on 24th March 2010 and signed on their behalf by

the Revd. Andy Bawtree, Chairman _____

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL'S, RIVER, DOVER

**ACCOUNTS
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31st December 2009**

Independent Examiner

John R Parsons FCA
Mallards
3 Mill Race
River
Dover

Independent Examiner's Report

to the PCC of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, River, Dover

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2009, which are attached hereto, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

(1) In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met.

(2) In order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached, I would draw the attention of members to the Note at the foot of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities with regard to the payment of accounts for the supply of gas.

John R Parsons FCA
Mallards
3 Mill Race
River

Dover
4th March 2010

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL'S, RIVER, DOVER

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are therefore available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups, if any, that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but are not included or valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC, and movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty, where the original cost, or if a gift to the PCC, the value at the time of the gift, exceeded £1,000 and which were purchased or given prior to 1996 such that their residual net book value as at the date of these accounts is not considered to be material.
- Any other amounts, other than refunds of tax, owing to the PCC including hall lettings.
- Legacies, if any, where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

A full inventory is maintained of all items owned by the PCC, including those items not included or valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Fixed Assets include items, other than those referred to above, where the original cost, or value if a gift, exceeded £1,000, and are shown at net book value after allowing for depreciation at 25% on a reducing balance basis.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Arrears of Diocesan Quota and Deanery Levy, if any.

- Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31st December.

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL'S, RIVER, DOVER
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2009

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	2009		2008	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Regular Giving</u>				
Net Covenants	47,445		40,349	
Envelopes	2,843		2,890	
Refund of Tax	<u>12,475</u>	<u>62,763</u>	<u>9,950</u>	53,189
<u>Other Voluntary Giving</u>				
Collections	3,800		5,643	
Christmas Fayre	1,660		1,591	
Fun Days and Youth Organisations	499		620	
Magazine/Bookstall	-		228	
Lunch Club	1,380		920	
Miscellaneous Appeals and Donations	3,211		4,594	
Legacies	<u>250</u>	10,800	<u>3,000</u>	16,596
<u>Other Income</u>				
Parish Fees	7,883		9,078	
Christian Centre Rent	6,601		6,180	
Interest and Dividends	<u>595</u>	<u>15,079</u>	<u>2,415</u>	<u>17,673</u>
		88,642		87,458
<u>Excess of Payments over Receipts</u>		<u>22,808</u>		-
		£111,450		£87,458
<u>PAYMENTS</u>				
<u>Ministry</u>				
Vicar's Expenses		1,776		1,629
<u>Services</u>				
Upkeep of Services	802		444	
Organ and Piano Tuning	348		223	
Payments to Verger, Organists and Cleaners	<u>1,880</u>	3,030	<u>1,735</u>	2,402
<u>Building Costs</u>				
Heating, Lighting, Water and Cleaning Materials	3,293		4,450	
Insurance	3,138		3,018	
Church, Christian Centre and Vicarage Repairs and Maintenance	<u>5,376</u>	11,807	<u>2,301</u>	9,769
<u>Other Parish Expenditure</u>				
Fun Days and Youth Organisations	50		452	
Magazine	180		210	
Lunch Club	358		368	
Parish Administration and Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>3,423</u>	4,011	<u>3,457</u>	4,487
<u>Payments Outside the Parish</u>				
Missions, Appeals and Charities	7,023		7,229	
Diocesan Quota and Deanery Levy	<u>59,158</u>	66,181	<u>56,092</u>	63,321
<u>Capital Expenditure</u>				
Internal Ramp	-		2,610	
Choir Robes	-		1,817	
AV/PA System	<u>24,645</u>	<u>24,645</u>	-	<u>4,427</u>
		111,450		86,035

Excess of Receipts over Payments

-
£111,450 1,423
£87,458

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL'S, RIVER, DOVER

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets - Net Book Value</u>		
Office Equipment	338	451
Chairs and Plaques	988	1,317
Carpet	282	376
Sound System	-	97
Projector	219	292
Staging	86	114
Choir Frontals	92	123
Christian Centre Kitchen Refurbishment	472	629
CCTV Equipment	709	945
Vicarage Carpets & Flooring	550	734
Internal Ramp	1,468	1,958
Choir Robes	1,022	1,362
AV/PA System	<u>18,484</u>	-
	<u>24,710</u>	<u>8,398</u>
 <u>Monetary Assets</u>		
Community Account	13,339	14,741
Business Premium Account	2,093	2,050
C.B.F. - General Purposes	<u>20,432</u>	<u>41,881</u>
	<u>35,864</u>	<u>58,672</u>
 <u>Investments</u>		
COIF Charity Investment Fund		
- re the late Revd. F.W.R.Mason - 31 shares	293	270
- re the late W.Coleman - 57 shares	539	496
3.5% War Stock (£52.65)	39	47
2.5% Treasury Stock 1975 (£27.46)	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
	<u>886</u>	<u>831</u>
 <u>TOTAL ASSETS (excluding Debtors)</u>	<u>£61,460</u>	<u>£67,901</u>
 <u>DEBTORS</u>		
Refund of Income Tax (receivable 2010)	<u>£3,282</u>	<u>£2,880</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Creditors	<u>£913</u>	<u>£423</u>

Note: British Gas Business have not submitted any accounts for the supply of gas since 29/11/08. It is

estimated that approximately £2,400 is owed to them as at 31/12/09. Arrangements have been made to regularise this situation during 2010.

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL'S, RIVER, DOVER

MOVEMENT OF FUNDS 2009

	£	£	£	£
<u>BALANCES as at 1st January 2009</u>				
Community Account	14,741			
Business Premium Account	2,050			
C.B.F. - General Purposes	<u>41,881</u>	58,672		
<u>RECEIPTS 2009</u>				
General Fund		88,642		
<u>PAYMENTS 2009</u>				
General Fund				111,450
<u>BALANCES as at 31st December 2009</u>				
Community Account			13,339	
Business Premium Account			2,093	
C.B.F. - General Purposes			<u>20,432</u>	35,864
		<u>£147,314</u>		<u>£147,314</u>

Reports from Wardens and Parish Organisations

Fabric

The year since the last Fabric Report for the APCM has been rather busy! The usual annual cycle of basic maintenance has been carried out. In addition Maurice Smith and Vic Parrett have completed a vast array of day-to-day jobs essential to the efficient running of the church and Christian Centre, and we owe them great thanks for this. In addition, the recent Quinquennial Inspection has presented the church with a maintenance challenge which will have to be grasped either immediately or over the next few years. The Annual Inventory check was carried out in March 2010.

The Annual Cycle of Completed Maintenance

- Clearance of accessible gutters to the Christian Centre and church
- Gutter leaf guards provided right round the Christian Centre, together with hopper filters;
- Defective lamps in the church replaced
- Heating and hot water systems professionally serviced
- Fire extinguishers serviced
- Christian Centre cookers cleaned
- Time clocks adjusted as necessary
- Paths cleaned of yew berries and cleared of snow; manhole covers recoated with silicon carbide; gullies and walkways round the church cleared of debris and tree growth; external drains to south aisle extension unblocked
- Gull nests evicted from the tower roof, thanks to Nigel and Tim (the gulls have returned to a cleaner house!)
- Churchyard tidied when necessary; hedged trimmed; weed growth removed

Additional works Undertaken

- Sanding and sealing of Christian Centre floor
- Recovering of cushions in the Christian Centre
- Carpets in the Christian Centre and Foyer cleaned
- Replacement of Christian Centre fluorescent tubes, cleaning of fittings and removal of diffusers
- Clearing drain blocked by paper towels
- External lights outside the organ chamber refurbished

- Replacement of hand drier in the ladies' toilet
- Repairing mains water intake leak in the Christian Centre kitchen
- Fitting of 22 metres of shelving to the former changing area off the Choir vestry
- Clearance of cupboard under Christian Centre stairs and creation of a cleaning materials cupboard.
- Christian Centre cupboards repaired: utensil trays fitted in cupboards; doors to kitchen adjusted
- Baby-changing unit installed
- A notice board has been put up in the Christian Centre Upper Room
- Provision of new audio – visual equipment and reorganisation of the rear of the church.
- Extra electrical sockets have been fitted to the rear of the nave
- Missing and defective slates have been replaced to the nave and apse roof.
- The kitchen and cooker have been thoroughly cleaned
- A bees' nest was removed from the bone shed
- New plastic plugs fitted to all Christian Centre chairs (95)
- The damaged bottom handrail to the Christian Centre stairs was repaired;
- A blind has been fitted to exclude sunlight from the window in the apse.

An intermittent problem arose during the year over wasps getting into the church and causing a few problems, especially for those who are allergic to their stings. The Council official with responsibility for such things remarked rather stingingly that he doubted they were wasps as it was the wrong time of year and declined the invitation to come out and see. The church has a recurrent problem with wasp nests in the roof.

The North Porch

Access to the church via the main nave door and Porch has been suspended for the time being until a proper investigation has been conducted into the causes and possible remedies for the jamming of the outside church door. This has been suggested as being urgent in the recent Quinquennial inspection.

The Quinquennial Inspection

This has produced a number of items for both immediate investigation and maintenance and longer-term serious attention, with major works likely to be required within the next 10 years. The Inspecting Architect will present his findings to the PCC shortly.

And finally.....

The above synopsis of work undertaken during the course of the year since the last Annual Fabric report is not a total account what has been done, but is an important

illustration and testament to the time, devotion and dedication of people to the maintenance of our place of worship, and I commend them all most highly.

**Chris Hurling and Janet Parrett
Church Wardens**



Church Music

I would like to begin this year's report by thanking all those who make music in any way in our Church at River – the choir, including those who joined us to make the Carol Service such an happy event; the organists, the bands, the children with their percussion instruments, and, of course, the congregation. We must not overlook the fact that the whole Church is involved in music making, and more often than not, the congregational singing is truly inspiring.

The choir is made up of faithful members who come weekly on a Friday for practice and support the morning service on Sundays. We have been encouraged this year because Alan and Brenda Walker have joined us. Each year (and at other times in between) I say that there is room for more members, and I repeat this. Most people lead busy and satisfying lives, but there may be some who are looking for another way of service in the Church. Please consider joining us. There are no voice tests and it is not necessary to read music, although this could help. Anyway, learning to read music is not that daunting. We have a set of lovely blue robes that need owners!

The band which plays for the All-age services is becoming very experienced, and we could also do with more members here. It is true to say that with more numbers in choir and band we could achieve even greater heights. St. Paul had a vision in which the man from Macedonia said, "Come over to Macedonia and help us". Perhaps as you read this, you could decide to come and help us.

No report on music could be complete without offering grateful thanks to Edward Turner and Anne Beverton for all they do in accompanying the singing. Also, Tony Hursey plays his accordion each month for the Wednesday Communion service. We also enjoy Andrew Fellows' playing at the keyboard. Thank you all.

Ralph Harding



Over 11's Youth Ministry ("CDJ")

The year since the last annual meeting has been quite demanding on the CDJ front. As the young people mature, physically, emotionally and spiritually, running activities and finding the right levels of teaching become more and more difficult. The young people themselves find it difficult to identify what they do want to do, whilst deciding that some of the activities and teaching on offer are what they definitely don't want to do!! However, nothing changes under the sun in the way of youth work and as all youth workers know the phase will eventually pass. We are still struggling to find the right levels and mechanisms of support for the leaders to ensure that all those involved with this age group are properly supported.

After the Christmas film, the PCC asked CDJ to make a film for Easter. Most of the young people took part with enthusiasm and we saw Matt Curtis make his first appearance as the Easter Bunny (oops, sorry to disillusion those who thought the bunny was real!!) The group wrote and acted their own trial drama, did the readings and took part in the link scenes. Marc spent many hours editing the DVD together until it appeared exactly as I had envisioned it when I stood in the church at Formiguères staring at the 12th century sculpture which formed the end of the film. It was screened to a packed congregation on Easter Day. We were very encouraged that the quality was so much better than the Christmas DVD and that we have learned some very valuable production lessons. We are awaiting the next commission with enthusiasm. In the mean time Marc and I have been putting together footage to use with meditations and other activities at Prayer and Praise. We avoid copyright and broadcast issues by using our own footage and Marc has proved to be an able camera man (and he did manage to get all the close up water shots without falling in).

The new sound system has been a mixed blessing. The CDJ Worship Experience has used the system with enthusiasm, in the eyes of some members of the congregation, with too much enthusiasm. It has been an encouragement to be able to balance some of the sound to enhance the quality of the music which the musicians produce. Unfortunately, due to the fact that the monitor mikes were removed from the original quote, at least one member of the band can not plug into the sound system as they are unable to hear themselves play. This makes it difficult to balance the sound in the way we'd like to. I understand that investigations are being made to purchase this equipment.

The CDJ Worship Experience continues to develop as the group meet to practice on a weekly basis. Being creative artists there is the odd full and frank exchange of views before things are completely right. The band has provided the worship music for Prayer and Praise and excelled themselves at the All Age Worship in November. Andrew, Simon and Zac did themselves proud when they played at the Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage.

We are still struggling with the right format for Prayer and Praise and this still needs to be worked on although we are encouraged by the number of people who come to support the young people.

Marc, Zac and Simon made a sterling contribution to the organisation of the Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage from 2009 and Zac and Simon have continued on the Committee for the 2010 Pilgrimage.

CDJ organised and ran the All Age Worship on November 15th. Despite some hiccups at the beginning the service came together and we received generally good feedback about the service, although there were a number of "too loud, too long" comments. One of the issues for me, was my lack of understanding about the legal requirements of the Anglican church, which ended up restricting my original ideas. Having downloaded all 273 pages of the legal requirements for the different Anglican services, Marc and I are now more aware of the requirements!! We tried to make it truly All Age and I hope that there was something for

everyone (despite the fact I couldn't move around for a week having practiced the Doug Horley song so much). Although we overran a bit, the Archbishop beat us by at least 10 minutes and the MAF presentation by the better part of half an hour!!

The young people have taken part in other events in the life of the church which I am sure will be mentioned in other reports.

Marc and I had a stimulating time at the Youthwork Conference and I underwent a life changing experience whilst we were at the conference which showed us at least a part of our long term vision for our own spiritual journey. It was a great treat to be able to worship in the way in which I feel most comfortable (which involved quite a lot of bouncing, but a good deal of energy filled meditation too) and to be stimulated by the sessions and the Bible study. We attended a variety of "how to" sessions, some apologetics and other sessions which stretched me intellectually. The theme for the conference was transformation and I can safely say that's what happened.

We have had a number of social events, including Mr Nigel and Mrs Kate opening their garden for bonfire night and a film evening.

As always I would like to express my thanks to the churchwardens and Maurice for all the help they give us on a practical basis. Maurice's control over the radiator has meant that we have been able to stay warm upstairs.

I would also like to thank Marc, Nigel and Mandy for all the support they give to the group and the amount of time they spend helping us to provide the activities for the group.

I am not sure what God has in store for the youth work at St Peter's over the next year. I feel that we have the seed of a vision which will germinate over the next year or so. We are aware that members of the congregation pray for us, but it would give us so much joy and encouragement if occasionally people prayed with us so that we feel that the church is with us in the work that we do.

I rest assured though, that whatever the next year holds, God is with us.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
(Proverbs 3:5-6) (from The Holy Bible: New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, by International Bible Society)

Elizabeth and Marc Barber



The Dover Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen, which has run in Dover since 1989, continues to feed the needy at 6pm every day (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day when meals are provided at Dover Baptist Church) from a portakabin in Russell Street car park. Volunteers from St. Peters, with help from members of Whitfield Parish Church, are responsible for the Thursday evening coverage.

We currently have around 20 volunteers making up 7 teams for Thursday evenings. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all on the rota and those who leave gifts of money or donations of soup in the basket at the back of Church, for their support in making this valuable ministry possible. The work is not always easy as many of the attendees have problems with alcohol or drug abuse although the vast majority are very appreciative of what's provided for them.

Special thanks should also go to Steph Perrow of River Methodist Church who started the Soup Kitchen all those years ago and who only stood down as Co-ordinator in September. Her place is now taken by Mrs Liz Waller, who is already secretary of Christians Together in Dover. She is supported by Maurice Smith, Geoff Smithard, Stephanie Burke and Judith Shilling each of whom have taken responsibility for an area of Soup Kitchen work.

The continuing uncertainty about the proposed town centre developments make planning for the future difficult. However, it is recognised that the present portakabin is unsuitable and needs replacing. Any ideas for the future, offers of finance, or even a replacement building would be welcome.

**Adrian Fellows,
St. Peter's Co-ordinator**



Cottager's Allotments Trust

Trustees.

Three trustees administer the Trust. The first trustees in the Scheme Document sealed on the 21st October 1997 were the Vicar and two Churchwardens. Any trustee may resign by giving notice to the other trustees and the trustees may appoint new trustees as required. The current trustees are

Adrian Fellows	Christopher Hurling	Janet Parrett
Secretary/Treasurer	Chairman	Member

Assets.

Land (vested in the official custodian for Charities and held in trust for the Cottager's Allotment's Trust) consists of 2 roods and 38 perches at River Minis. It is currently let to James Alfred Norris at an annual rent of £120. Land should be let at the best obtainable rent and can be sold for the benefit of the Trust with the agreement of the Charity Commissioners.

An investment is held in the Charities Official Investment Trust (COIF) OF 1,638.63 units valued at £15,507.01 on 31st December 2009 (£14,249.36 on 31st December 2008).

Bank balances held at CAF Bank on 31st December 2009 were £3,554.05 (£7,747.56 on 31st December 2008).

Purpose.

The funds are to be used at the discretion of the trustees for relieving persons resident in River Parish who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. Exceptionally, they may be made to residents outside but immediately adjacent to River Parish if the Trustees feel they should be treated as residents.

Accounts.

Statements of account, as requested must be submitted to the Charity Commissioners annually and traditionally have been submitted for information to the APCM.

ACCOUNTS FOR 2009:

Income :

	£	£
Balance brought forward 1 st January 2009:		7,747.56
Bank interest:	19.94	
Dividends:	685.93	
Rent:	<u>120.00</u>	
		<u>825.87</u>

Outgoings:

Disbursements	(1,300.00)	
NatWest Bank plc – refund of overpayment credited to CAF account in 2008.	(3,719.38)	
		<u>(£5,019.38)</u>
Balance to carry forward to 1 st January 2010 :		3,554.05

Notes.

The Trustees agreed to requests for financial support amounting to £1,300 during 2009 to assist with payment of rent and mortgage payments.

The accounts with NatWest Bank plc were closed during 2008 and transferred to a single account with CAF Bank, a subsidiary of the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) a registered charity. A refund of £3,719.38 was made to NatWest Bank plc in 2009 due to an overpayment made while transferring the accounts in 2008.

Accounts prepared by Adrian Fellows, Hon Treasurer on 18th February 2010.



The Mothers' Union

It is sad to report that after more than 50 years of faithful witness the River branch of the Mothers' Union finally closed at the end of 2009. Numbers had been dwindling and the faithful few found it increasingly difficult to get to meetings and to fulfil the aims and objectives of the World Wide Mothers' Union. Happily at River there are many other opportunities to meet together and to support family life and those of us who have been members of the Mothers' Union will continue to be active in the parish.

Four members from River, St Andrews's and St Mary's will join either St. Mary's Dover or Shepherdswell MU, these being the only remaining Branches in the Deanery. If there are any newcomers to the Parish who are interested in joining MU I would be pleased to forward their names to the appropriate Branch

In conclusion, I would like to record heartfelt thanks on behalf of St. Peter & St Paul, River and the Deanery for the dedication of Pauline Bailey, who I succeeded as Branch Leader, and who took on the task of Deanery President. Pauline took on both these jobs in spite of increasing physical difficulties and we are indebted to her.

Val Crowley



Children

The children of our church are key to the church family. It is our bounden duty and also a great joy to encourage them to come to the house of the Lord, to sing His praise and to learn His ways.

Sunday Club has continued to meet during term-time. There are three groups and the children have chosen their own names – Starfish (the younger children), Dolphins (Year 2 children) and Turtles (Key Stage 2 children). Meeting separately enables the children to share their learning in small groups where there is the opportunity to value each child's contribution. On Communion Sundays all the children worship together for a short while. Welcome additions to the Sunday Club leaders this year are Immy

Bawtree and Erin O'Bree who have committed to leading the Starfish monthly. It is a joy to see the children respond to these young people.

There have been a number of changes in Children's work at our Church during the year. July saw the closure of SupaClub, which with its predecessor, Magnet Club had served Primary School children for many years. In August after leading the Holiday Week, Ralph retired from Children's Work. Much has been said of his valuable contribution to Children's Work in our Church but there are also unsung heroes. Grateful thanks goes to Eve Hartwell who had been part of Magnet and SupaClub for long years.

Under the very able guidance of Sarah Ritson and Elaine Grayling and with the help of the Brownies we again decorated the font for harvest. Ralph has not quite hung up his story-telling hat – he still visits Abbey Pre-School each week to share the gospel message.

With not a little trepidation, Vicki Bawtree and the Friday Vicarage Study Group led a very successful Fun Morning, "Countdown to Christmas" in November. This was a great morning and all the regular Fun Day helpers were in evidence – plus some new volunteers. There were craft activities, a DVD and excellent Christian music to dance to provided by Andrew, Simon, Zac, Matt and Perry – with Ben on the sound desk. The children and helpers alike all had a wonderful time.

Another new venture which began in the Autumn is Sunshine Club. This is a club for Primary School Children and is held fortnightly in term time on Thursday after school. I am grateful to the most willing team of helpers which has gone a long way to set this club on a sound footing. Simon Fellows is a faithful member of the team – and being considerably nearer in age than some of us, has a special relationship with the children! There is snack time, craft activities, games, DVDs, puppets, drama and lots of fun – all aimed at sharing the love of Jesus with the children.



**Josie Harding,
Children's Minister**

Tuesday Lunch Club

The Tuesday Lunch Club has had another successful year, in fact there seems to have been more interaction between guests which is really good to see. The Christmas meal was very much enjoyed by all, staff and guests alike, and was a wonderful festive occasion. The next highlight will be a visit from River School when children will interact with guests and entertain them with 2nd world war songs.

Due to a drop in numbers our 'waiting list' is open and we look forward to seeing new members. We would also welcome new staff as a few have had to drop out for various reasons.

Celia Powell



Sunday Half Hour

Another year has passed and members of the Sunday Half Hour team have faithfully and happily fulfilled their duties. As always it seems as if it is "something we do for the residents" but then a kind of miracle occurs, we find that we have received a blessing too. It is wonderful to join in the Lord's Prayer with people who have known it most of their lives and to sing hymns likewise; we are always amazed at how many people know the words.

I think I said this last year but it is still worth mentioning. None of us is getting younger and some have found it difficult to continue due to declining health or family commitments. We are always looking for some extra contributions, especially among younger people, in all areas of the service. Rarely does anyone have to do it more than twice in a three-month period and if you feel you have a little time on a Sunday afternoon once in a while to swell numbers, then please contact either Alan Hassell on 824737 or me 827143. It really is more rewarding that you can imagine.



Jill Chandler
Co-ordinator

Madagascar Link

Following the coup in Madagascar and the posting of our Link Church Vicar there has been little progress for our link.

It has not been possible for anyone from Canterbury Diocese to visit the Island due to Foreign Office advice so most of the Link activities are on hold for the time being. However Andy is in regular contact with Bishop Gilbert and we continue to receive news through him.

For the time being we will consider River/Bishop Gilbert as our Link, and will continue to support any projects that are brought to our attention. The Poverty and Hope Appeal is still running and Madagascar will continue to receive a share of the money raised each year.

It is vital for us to remain faithful to our brothers and sisters in Madagascar and to support them with our prayers at this time political upheaval.

Sheila Swan



Deanery Synod

Some wise person once said that the older you get, the faster time goes by. How true this is! It doesn't seem a year since I wrote the last Deanery Synod report but I guess it must have been. This last year has seen us travelling around Dover Deanery with our first meeting being held at the ancient church of St Margaret of Antioch in St Margaret-at-Cliffe. This was a very interesting meeting in many ways as the guest speaker was the newly-appointed Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the Revd Clive Todd who spoke about the many and varied forms of ministry. Following him, the Revd Stewart Carolan-Evans gave us an overview of the parish of Guston reporting good signs of growth. After all the business of the evening was completed, on behalf of Deanery Synod, a social time followed to mark the retirement of two of the Deanery's most faithful parish priests, the Revds Tony Durkin and Andrew Way.

Our next meeting, in October, found us in what is probably one of the most ancient buildings in the area, the church of St Mary-in-Castro at Dover Castle. Following a service of Holy Communion in such a wonderfully atmospheric building the Synod was treated to a presentation on the healing ministry by the Revds Peter Bowers and Amanda Evans.

The last meeting took place at St Mary's church in Dover and although unable to attend myself I understand there was a speaker on the various forms of lay vocations.

As I have said before, Deanery Synod provides a vital link between parishes in the area and shows how committed and deep is faith in our risen Lord here in Dover and around about.



Tim Moseling

Social Committee

This year has seen us, yet again, eating, drinking and being merry in varying degrees.

The social year started with what is now becoming a firm fixture, the St George's Day dinner which was attended by many of our friends here at St Peter's. A traditional meal of roast beef followed by apple pie was rounded off with yet more fine entertainment provided by Ralph and the choir with contributions from the Vicar and Peter Whibley. Special thanks to the young people who helped serve and clear up afterwards.

More eating took place at a Parish Barbeque in June which was equally well-attended and at the annual Harvest supper in September.

We rounded off this year's events with a quiz night on March 6th which attracted nearly one hundred people – quite a challenge to feed all at once! My personal thanks go yet again to Sarah Love for the time and effort both she and Peter spend in bringing us such fine food and for all those who have helped in any way with the events of the last year. We know Jesus enjoyed spending time with His family and friends and by meeting together outside of church we are but following His example.

Tim Moseling



Sanctuary Guild

The Sanctuary Guild continues to provide flowers in the church for all occasions and my thanks must first go to the willing group of friends who help me with this work. Their time and talent is given for Wedding flowers, special anniversaries and all the major festivals of the year and I feel blessed to have such a talented group of ladies who do this work for our church. We are always looking for extra pairs of hands to lighten the load, so if there is anyone out there with a little time to spare (lady or gentleman) please speak to me or any one the ladies – we would welcome your input.

This year, with a great deal of help from Chris Hurling, we have moved from our cupboard under the stairs to the choir vestry where we can at last see what we have clearly and have room to move. We are very grateful for the extra space it has given us.

We would like to thank all members of the congregation who regularly give money for the flowers – we could not do it without your support, so please continue. We are happy to arrange flowers for any occasion, so please sign our flower diary. I know I speak for all the members of the Sanctuary Guild when I say that we give our time willingly because it is our way of saying “thank you” to the Lord for our many blessings.

Elizabeth Weaver



Healing

As a church family we believe very much in God’s healing power and give thanks for the healing that has taken place in people’s lives over the last twelve months, physical, mental and spiritual healing has taken place. We pray corporately in our services for those we know and whose names are placed on the prayer board and notice sheet. We also pray individually for people’s needs and requests, this often happens on the third Wednesday of the month at Holy Communion, but also at other times . We can all pray for each other, but the church leaders have a particular responsibility James 5:13-16. If you would like someone to pray with you, to lay hands or anoint you with oil please let me know.

Andy Bawtree



Home Communion

We have four large homes in the parish which provide varying degrees of care to people. These are visited on Sunday afternoons along with some of the Methodists. In addition each month Holy Communion is celebrated at Riverlea and Meadow Dean where up to fifteen people come and join myself and Don Soppitt. Applecroft and Woodside are sometimes included as are people in their own homes who are sick or unable to get out and come to the church building. In addition Alandale in Whitfield is well served by John & Val Crowley, with the Rev’d Barbara Way’s blessing.

Andy Bawtree

Home Groups

We are blessed to have a number of people who open up their homes to groups and others who lead them. These groups study together, pray together and help provide both fellowship and support which in a church as large as ours can sometimes be difficult just seeing folk on Sundays or Wednesdays. The following are reports of some of these groups:

1. **Wednesday Bible Study**

The group met regularly until June, finishing "The Acts"--course by John Stott, followed by "The Holy Spirit"--course by Selwyn Hughes. Then health issues caused a term off, and we started afresh in 2010 with a York course--Jesus rediscovered.

Snow and hills have caused us to cancel some sessions and now we are starting the Lent course. We will have to finish "Jesus Rediscovered" after Easter.

There are nine of us if all are present and we are grateful to Maurice for his preparation, music and prayers.

Janet Jowett

3. **Friday Morning House Group**

We have over the last year looked at a number of different studies together, looking in depth at some of the less well known Bible characters as well as reading books written for Christian mums, covering many issues we all experience. We are working through Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life" at the moment. We have laughed and cried together, prayed and studied and regularly enjoy tasty things to eat! Perhaps one of the highlights for this past year was organising and running a Fun Morning "Countdown to Christmas" for the children at Church.

Vicki Bawtree



The Magnet

The Magnet continues to be a valued means of communicating information and shared activities between the Methodist Church and St Peter and St Paul's, as well as providing some interesting articles and reviews. Thanks to David and Elaine Grayling and Tim Moseling for their work in putting it together and the Methodists for printing it.

Andy Bawtree

Website

The Church website, (www.rivercofe.co.uk) has now been up and running since Oct 2007 and now attracts around 400 visits every month. As you would expect the majority of visitors are from Great Britain, but there are also large numbers of visitors from the USA and Russia! The website is updated every week and provides details of forthcoming services and forthcoming events, as well as providing information on marriage, baptism, confirmation etc. In fact, many of the visits to the website are due to people searching for information on topics such as the duties of Godparents, or perhaps leading prayers. Other visitors have been redirected from the River Parish Council website, Dover Deanery website, and even Wikipedia where we are mentioned in the entry for 'River'. In the future we are hoping to add recordings of sermons to the site for people to listen to, and other additions. The website is constantly being improved, and therefore if you haven't visited for a while, why not take a look?

Ben Curtis
Webmaster

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was a great success once again and exceeded all my expectations. Despite there being several Christmas fayres and other local events on the same day, we still managed to raise £1665.43, which is even more than in 2008 (£1585).

For those, like me, who like statistics, read on ----- this year there were ___

2 competitions

6 games

9 stalls

27 raffle prizes - June Dyer was delighted when she won 1st prize – a large Christmas hamper

49 wonderful people helped to run the stalls and games

50 energetic people tried to Splatt the rat

£128.48 spent on kitchen items and ornaments

£129.56 worth of Books and DVDs

£186 worth of jewellery was sold

£204.80 worth of toiletries –lots of nice smelly residents in River now

217 people paid to come in (£43-40)

£313.50 worth of delicious lunches were served by 5 lovely ladies in the kitchen

648 raffle tickets were sold (and folded!)

1525 grammes was the weight of the cake, which was won by Mrs Killip.

and a partridge in a pear tree! (I exaggerated about the partridge, but there was a robin)

A very big thank you to everyone who helped and participated in any way, especially to the small band of extremely tired folk who helped to move all the church furniture and carry tables etc. on the Friday evening beforehand. More able-bodied folk would be very much appreciated next year.

I have enjoyed organising the Fayre and in the process I have learned to bear in mind the words of Cpl Jones (from Dad's Army) - " Don't panic, Don't panic ", because despite all my anxieties, lists and pleading phone calls everything seems to slot into place during the last 2 days before the Fayre.

Gaynor Hurling



Christians Together in Dover – Annual General Meeting

As this was the A.G.M., after opening prayer and a bible reading, the election of Officers took place. Arthur Salisbury is the Chairman for the coming year, and our very own Andy Bawtree is Vice-chairman—to whom falls the task of organising the Good Friday Procession of Witness! Support this. The Treasurer is Rodney Stone (St. Margarets), and the Secretary Liz Waller (Temple Ewell). Your reps on the Council are Andy, Megan Richardson, and myself.

Past events were reviewed – Fair Trade Fortnight; Palm Sunday Service; Good Friday Procession of Witness, Easter Sunrise Service the Regatta service; the week of prayer for Christian unity (and the associated Agape). All these events have been very fully reported by Michael Hinton in the spring edition of Dover Christian Chronicle and I would recommend that all members read this publication.

Other events and dates for the future were confirmed and, where appropriate, will be integrated into our church calendar. 'Christians Together in Dover' is a tremendous force for good in the town, encouraging and co-ordinating events between the churches. We are all very busy doing things in our own churches but there can be tremendous joy in meeting with other Christians in a variety of ways and in different places.

We received a very exciting report from Chris Penfold, who is a community development officer in Canterbury. He has wide experience of doing Christian work with children in the city, and he and his team are reaching hundreds of children, and through them some of the parents. He offered to come to Dover and help us get the scheme started here. The Council will discuss this further.

Fair Trade is taking hold in the town. You may be interested to know that a 4-bar Kit Kat is FT but a 2-bar is not!

Churches are still strongly encouraged to see how steps can be taken through the P.C.C. to help combat global warming.

It is proposed that the Pentecost Praise should be held in the Market Square and Marie Kirk (D. Baptist) is looking into the possibility. The town is still open to Christian things and in these difficult days, we need to take every opportunity to witness to our Saviour.



Ralph Harding

The Duties of a Village Hall Trustee

The link between the village of River and the church goes back to the days of the first River church over 800 years ago and SS Peter & Paul has been represented on the panel of trustees since the formation of controlled charities many years ago.

The St Peter's rep. is required to take part in the trustees' meetings (usually on the second Monday of every month at 7-30 pm) and to play a part in governing the charity, as well as helping from time to time in Village Hall events (such as fund-raising coffee mornings and bazaars). The demands upon time are not great as there are many helping hands on the committee. At each meeting a short report of current and future church activities is presented. There are no onerous financial implications.

I have decided to retire as, because of family commitments, I have been missing too many meetings of late. John Crowley did it before me and so either of us could let you know in greater detail what is involved if you would like to take on the role.

I did resign last year but was elected in my absence.....

This year, I will not accept the appointment again as I feel that I have not been able to do the job as I would have liked to do it.

I wish every blessing to my successor. You will enjoy getting to know those villagers of River who do not usually frequent the aisles of our church, as I have over these many years.

Don Soppitt
Retiring Representative

Mission

This past year River Church hasn't officially sent anyone out of the parish to proclaim the Gospel. (may be next year) Nevertheless the congregation are regularly exhorted to go into the parish and their places of work and hopefully we have had God's mission in mind. We have continued our link with the Church in Madagascar in particular with Bishop Gilbert of Fianarantsoa there. He has corresponded with us and we pray for each other as church communities, we have sent them gifts of money and they in return have sent tokens of their affection. Closer to home we have also continued to support the work of Cross Links on the Buckland estate with funds and prayers and especially Nigel Collins who is often with us and his family. Although not strictly mission we support the work of the Barnabas Trust which works with persecuted Christians all over the world but especially in Muslim countries. There are magazines, and prayer diaries which contain plenty of information and the website is one of the various links on our own parish website. We were visited by Bishop Henry Scriven from CMS (Church Mission Society) last summer who spoke of God's mission to the world and our part in that as well as sharing opportunities for service, prayer and action. We have been have also been delighted to get to know Mike & Laura from MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and their two lovely children Ivan & Deborah. Not only did they become part of the church family but they spoke of their work at the beginning of the year and hope to head back to Africa this summer. We will I hope continue to pray for them and support them financially. Ian & Claire Gray from Wycliffe Bible Translators were unable to visit us this year but we were able to raise enough money to send 100 Bibles to the Dagbani people which was brilliant and now they can read the Good News in their own language thanks to sterling work by folk like the Gray's.

Naomi Varty

Methodist Covenant

The covenant between ourselves and the Methodists continues to flourish as we jointly continue to witness to our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, primarily in River but of course also as individuals to those with whom we come into contact. Over the past year, we have enjoyed many occasions and activities together, a number of which are summarised as follows:

We shared together in Communion on Ascension Day at St. Peters. We also enjoyed the Rogation Service at St. Radigund's Abbey Farm, even though we were kept inside for the service due to the inclement weather.

On 6th September, we had a Covenant Service at St. Peters and on Remembrance Sunday we joined together with many representatives from the village to remember those who gave their lives in service of our country.

The joint-service on Advent Sunday was an opportunity to choose a favourite hymn, followed after the service by coffee and mince-pies.

On 10th and 17th January, we held joint meetings at River Methodist Church with Reverend Andy Bawtree, sharing part of his testimony on the second occasion.

During the period of Lent we enjoyed fellowship at various places around the village, studying the York Course.

On Passion Sunday evening. we enjoyed a service of Readings and music and on Palm Sunday we joined together for a walk of witness around the village. There were about fifty of us, from both churches, all making a joyful noise unto the Lord and waving palm and pampas branches. We stopped at several locations, to share a reading from the Bible and to sing a hymn. Many residents would have seen and heard us.

We also shared in Maundy Thursday Communion Service and spent an 'Hour by the Cross', at St. Peters on Good Friday. Easter Sunday we joined together for communion followed by breakfast at River Methodist Church.

We also sent out our joint Christmas card for all the village, announcing our services as well as wishing everyone a happy Christmas.

We also jointly supported the Dickensian Fayre which was a great success for the whole village.

Each month we are involved with joint Sunday Half Hour services in four of the homes for the elderly in River.

We look forward to strengthening our covenant with our Methodist brothers and sisters in the coming year as we continue to work together in witness and service in the village of River.

Peter Cotterrill

