



Parish Church of  
St Peter and St Paul, River

We worship and witness to the Living God

**Reports for the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
including the  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church  
Council  
and  
The Accounts and Financial Statement for  
the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2011,  
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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 until the date this report was approved are:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Incumbent:                              | The Revd Andy Bawtree MA, BD. Chair   |   |
| Readers:                                | Mr Don Soppitt<br>Mr Nigel Collins<br>Ms Lynne Watson   |   |
| Wardens:                                | Mr Chris Hurling<br>Mrs Janet Parrett   |   |
| Authorised Lay<br>Children's Minister   | Mrs Josie Harding   |   |
| Representatives on the<br>Deanery Synod | Mr Tim Moseling<br>Mrs Margaretta Bundy<br>Mr Nigel Curtis  |   |
| Elected Members                         | Mr Paul Bailey<br>Mrs Pauline Bailey<br>Mr Peter Cotterill<br>Mrs June Dyer   | From April 2010   |
| Treasurer                               | Mr Adrian Fellows   |   |
| Secretary                               | Mrs Gill Rowland<br>Mr Vic Parrett<br>Mrs Celia Powell<br>Mr Nicholas Prebble<br>Mr Maurice Smith<br>Mrs Sheila Swan<br>Mrs Naomi Varty<br>Mrs Elizabeth Weaver | Until April 2010<br>Until April 2010<br>From April 2010<br>Until April 2010<br>Until April 2010 |
| Co-Opted Member                         | Mr Peter Riddelsdell  |   |

## **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 parishioners and others to become Christians, 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, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

## **Achievements and Performance**

The four Sundays in October brought an average attendance of 107 over 16 and 16 under 16s and in the last year there have been 36 funerals, 27 baptisms and 7 weddings.

At the APCM last year it was reported that there were 182 names on the Electoral Roll. Those who have died this year are: May Williams, Freda Goldfinch, Norman Barraclough, Memphis Salter, Eve Hartwell, Averil Adams. An additional 13 people are no longer worshipping at our Church. This gives a total of 19 deletions. During the year there have been ten additions to the Roll. Thus the Roll now stands at 173 and of these 57% live in the Parish.

## **Review of the Year**

The full PCC met six times during the year following the 2010 APCM with an average attendance of 68.7%. In most cases the meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Standing Committee, comprising the Vicar, Treasurer, Wardens, Secretary and Mr Curtis. 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. A letter from the Deanery Treasurer asking us to fund an additional 2% on our parish share seemed unreasonable in the light of the financial constraints under which members of the congregation found themselves. A settlement was finally reached at the Deanery Settlement meeting that saw our Parish Share rise to £61,050.82. The PCC remains committed to tithing and responding to need in the world and continued to support Crosslinks, The Barnabas Fund, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Bishop Gilbert in Madagascar, our Hungarian link and Ian and Claire Gray. In addition collections were held for Pakistan and The Children's society via the Christingle service.

Much time and thought has been put in to supporting the Street Pastors initiative and we are pleased that as well as having members of our congregation involved in the planning, two of our number are willing to train to be Street Pastors.

It was agreed to combine an Open Day with the “Back to Church Sunday and Harvest weekend and this was a huge success with many people coming to visit and see some of the many facets of church life. Further outreach has taken the form of the visit of the Riding Lights theatre company to perform “Origins and Lemons” and Lance Pierson’s “90 Minute Bible”. We also held the annual Guest Tea and Songs of Praise for local organisations supporting the elderly or disabled. It was a disappointment, however, that insufficient volunteers could be found to have the church open for a few hours a week throughout the summer months.

In September Elaine Rose, Diocesan Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Advisor, came to speak about the current regulations and guidelines and how parishes should respond. She suggested a broader definition of abuse than perhaps is often considered, to include those who might be in an overpowering relationship and also pointed out that people can become vulnerable at a time of bereavement, for example, so that we need to be aware constantly of those with whom we come in contact.

In January Emily Shepherd, Diocesan Director of Communications, came to speak of her work and encouraged us to undertake a parish communications audit, looking at the many ways in which we communicate as a church and whether the methods we use are always the most appropriate for our audience. This will be an ongoing project.

We continued to review the outstanding work done with our young people and enjoyed an informative presentation from Josie Harding in July. The needs of the clientele change and evolve and it is important that we continue to pray that we should all get to know each other more fully. Carol Boxall, from CTiD had organised meetings for those who work with children and these had proved very helpful.

Fabric and the work identified by the Quinquennial Inspection continued to play a large part of meetings and a separate Fabric subcommittee was established. Particular attention has been paid to the porch and a dig to see if a blocked soak away might be in part responsible for the crack that had appeared in it. The day to day maintenance of our church, from replacing light bulbs to installing new hand driers, refurbishing notice boards to replacing broken moulding on doors is a constant task and we are indebted to the volunteers who contribute hundreds of man hours and save many hundreds of pounds with their skills.

More details of fabric and maintenance will be found in the separate report.

Finally, we renew our commitment to “Worship and witness to the Living God” and to be an outward facing congregation. At our meetings we always rejoice with those who are celebrating and pray for those in need both within our own congregation and throughout the world.

## **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 16 March 2011 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 2010**

**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 2010, 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 and electricity.

John R Parsons FCA  
Mallards  
3 Mill Race  
River  
Dover  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2011

## **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 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

| <b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>  | <b>2010</b>   |                | <b>2009</b>   |                 |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
|   | £             | £              | £             | £               |
| <u>Regular Giving</u>   |               |                |               |                 |
| Net Covenants   | 54,477        |                | 47,445        |                 |
| Envelopes and Other Planned Giving                            | 2,462         |                | 2,843         |                 |
| Refund of Tax   | <u>13,500</u> | <u>70,439</u>  | <u>12,475</u> | 62,763          |
| <b>Other Voluntary Giving</b>                                 |               |                |               |                 |
| Collections   | 3,874         |                | 3,800         |                 |
| Christmas Fayre   | 1,777         |                | 1,660         |                 |
| Fun Days and Youth Organisations                              | 502           |                | 499           |                 |
| Lunch Club  | 1,330         |                | 1,380         |                 |
| Miscellaneous Appeals and Donations                           | 2,477         |                | 3,211         |                 |
| Legacies and Special Appeals                                  | <u>1,020</u>  | 10,980         | <u>250</u>    | 10,800          |
| <b>Other Income</b>   |               |                |               |                 |
| Parish Fees   | 7,606         |                | 7,883         |                 |
| Christian Centre Rent   | 6,770         |                | 6,601         |                 |
| Interest and Dividends  | 147           |                | 595           |                 |
| Sale of Study Notes   | <u>124</u>    | <u>14,647</u>  | -             | <u>15,079</u>   |
|   |               | 96,066         |               | 88,642          |
| Excess of Payments over Receipts                              |               | -              |               | 22,808          |
|   |               | <u>£96,066</u> |               | <u>£111,450</u> |
| <br><b>PAYMENTS</b>   |               |                |               |                 |
| <u>Ministry</u>   |               |                |               |                 |
| Vicar's Expenses  | 1,925         |                | 1,776         |                 |
| Madagascar Expenses   | <u>674</u>    | 2,599          | -             | 1,776           |
| <b>Services</b>   |               |                |               |                 |
| Upkeep of Services  | 378           |                | 802           |                 |
| Organ and Piano Tuning  | 313           |                | 348           |                 |
| Payments to Verger, Organists and Cleaners                    | <u>1,692</u>  | 2,383          | <u>1,880</u>  | 3,030           |
| <u>Building Costs</u>   |               |                |               |                 |
| Heating, Lighting, Water and Cleaning Materials               | 7,201         |                | 3,293         |                 |
| Insurance   | 3,138         |                | 3,138         |                 |
| Church, Christian Centre and Vicarage Repairs and Maintenance | 2,276         |                | 5,376         |                 |
| Quinquennial Report   | <u>1,574</u>  | 14,189         | -             | 11,807          |
| <u>Other Parish Expenditure</u>                               |               |                |               |                 |
| Fun Days and Youth Organisations                              | 247           |                | 50            |                 |
| Magazine  | 180           |                | 180           |                 |
| Lunch Club  | 283           |                | 358           |                 |
| Parish Administration and Miscellaneous Expenses              | <u>3,699</u>  | 4,409          | <u>3,423</u>  | 4,011           |
| <b>Payments Outside the Parish</b>                            |               |                |               |                 |
| Missions, Appeals and Charities                               | 8,916         |                | 7,023         |                 |
| Diocesan Quota and Deanery Levy                               | <u>60,555</u> | 69,471         | <u>59,158</u> | 66,181          |
| <b>Capital Expenditure</b>                                    |               |                |               |                 |
| AV/PA System  |               | -              |               | <u>24,645</u>   |
|   |               | 93,051         |               | 111,450         |
| <u>Excess of Receipts over Payments</u>                       |               | <u>3,015</u>   |               | -               |
|   |               | <u>£96,066</u> |               | <u>£111,450</u> |

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

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2010**

|  | <b>2010</b>    | <b>2009</b>    |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | £              | £              |
| <u>Fixed Assets - Net Book Value</u>           |                |                |
| Office Equipment                               | 253            | 338            |
| Chairs and Plaques                             | 741            | 988            |
| Carpet   | 212            | 282            |
| Projector                                      | 164            | 219            |
| Staging  | 65             | 86             |
| Choir Frontals                                 | 69             | 92             |
| Christian Centre Kitchen Refurbishment         | 354            | 472            |
| CCTV Equipment                                 | 532            | 709            |
| Vicarage Carpets & Flooring                    | 412            | 550            |
| Internal Ramp                                  | 1,101          | 1,468          |
| Choir Robes                                    | 766            | 1,022          |
| AV/PA System                                   | <u>13,863</u>  | <u>18,484</u>  |
|  | <u>18,532</u>  | <u>24,710</u>  |
| <br>   |                |                |
| <b>Monetary Assets</b>                         |                |                |
| Community Account                              | 15,001         | 13,339         |
| Business Premium Account                       | 3,343          | 2,093          |
| C.B.F. - General Purposes                      | <u>20,535</u>  | <u>20,432</u>  |
|  | <u>38,879</u>  | <u>35,864</u>  |
| <br>   |                |                |
| <u>Investments</u>                             |                |                |
| COIF Charity Investment Fund                   |                |                |
| - re the late Revd. F.W.R.Mason - 31 shares    | 313            | 293            |
| - re the late W.Coleman - 57 shares            | 575            | 539            |
| 3.5% War Stock (£52.65)                        | 41             | 39             |
| 2.5% Treasury Stock 1975 (£27.46)              | <u>15</u>      | <u>15</u>      |
|  | <u>944</u>     | <u>886</u>     |
| <br>   |                |                |
| <b><u>TOTAL ASSETS (excluding Debtors)</u></b> | <u>£58,355</u> | <u>£61,460</u> |
| <br>   |                |                |
| <b><u>DEBTORS</u></b>                          |                |                |
| Refund of Income Tax (receivable 2011)         | <u>£4,468</u>  | <u>£3,282</u>  |
| <br>   |                |                |
| <b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>                      |                |                |
| Creditors                                      | <u>£83</u>     | <u>£913</u>    |

**Notes:** 1. British Gas Business did not submit any accounts for the supply of gas during 2009. It is estimated that approximately £2,400 relating to gas used in 2009 is included in the charge for 2010.

2. Due to a meter reading error by our electricity supplier in 2009, it is estimated that approximately £600 was overcharged by them in 2009. This has been adjusted in 2010, thus reducing the charge this year.

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

**MOVEMENT OF FUNDS 2010**

|  | £             | £               | £             | £               |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <u>BALANCES as at 1st January 2010</u>       |               |                 |               |                 |
| Community Account                            | 13,339        |                 |               |                 |
| Business Premium Account                     | 2,093         |                 |               |                 |
| C.B.F. - General Purposes                    | <u>20,432</u> | 35,864          |               |                 |
| <br><u>RECEIPTS 2010</u>                     |               |                 |               |                 |
| General Fund                                 |               | 96,066          |               |                 |
| <br><u>PAYMENTS 2010</u>                     |               |                 |               |                 |
| General Fund                                 |               |                 |               | 93,051          |
| <br><u>BALANCES as at 31st December 2010</u> |               |                 |               |                 |
| Community Account                            |               |                 | 15,001        |                 |
| Business Premium Account                     |               |                 | 3,343         |                 |
| C.B.F. - General Purposes                    |               |                 | <u>20,535</u> | 38,879          |
|  |               | <u>£131,930</u> |               | <u>£131,930</u> |

## **Reports from Wardens and Parish Organisations**

### **Fabric**

The following is an account of the upkeep and repair of the fabric of St Peter and St Paul's church, river, over the year past:-

As is customary, the relative quiet of summer saw the customary servicing of church boilers and heating installations, with no problems arising. A severe leak occurred in the Christian centre kitchen during this period from one of the copper pipes behind the built-in units. This was fixed after a lengthy struggle by Blackmans and was attributed to poor quality piping.

A stubborn blockage in the drain section of the men's urinal was cleared by Frank Harvey, who sustained a nasty bang to the head in the process, requiring hospital attention. We were grateful to Frank on a further occasion when he fitted a new mixer tap in the disabled toilet at a favourable cost to the church.

Dave Adams, the electrician attended the church to carry out an investigation into the reported conflict in phasing between the feeds to the front of the church, as compared with the main body of the church. This was found not to be the case. He came on a further occasion to replace a faulty starter switch in the lighting in the side aisle. Maurice and Vic have replaced faulty lamps in the main nave area of the church and the lamp to the organ has also been repaired.

The kitchen underwent its annual thorough clean through during the summer 2010.

A kitchen extractor fan and filter have been cleaned by Maurice.

The principal access to the War Memorial in the church yard has been made easier by work to the area by the road gateway.

A new hand dryer has been fitted into the Ladies' toilets

A motorized screen has been erected by Maurice in the Christian Centre.

Maurice has made and erected a new hymn board for the side aisle chapel area.

Peter Love has carried out a repair to the outside tap by the gate in the churchyard.

External maintenance activities have been somewhat curtailed over the pre and post Christmas periods by very poor weather. This led not only to the use of quite large quantities of salt to keep access paths open for the Playgroup and congregation, but also to the cancellation of the planned clean-up of the churchyard. Gutter clearing has also not yet taken place.

Whilst practical progress on implementing the recommendations of the Quinquennial Inspection of 2010 has not yet gained a head of steam, certain acts have been taken. Maurice Smith has addressed some of the more 'accessible' and straightforward items. A preliminary dig in the area of the church porch did not lead to any information being gained on the causes of its undoubted problems. Nigel Curtis has been monitoring its levels to ascertain any movement taking place. One of the doors continues to jam and is opened when necessary in as gingerly fashion. It is good to see that an account has been set up specifically for funds to help towards meeting costs of the recommendations of the Quinquennial Inspection, and this is growing steadily. A number of church members have come forward with suggestions as to how we can help to 'grow' funds. Suggestions range from sponsoring Welsh slate replacements, to operating a 100 Club and a Friends of St Peter's Church (as is the case at Alkham Church). We have not yet followed up these lines, but hope to do so in the near future.

The Church Inventory was checked and updated as of March 13<sup>th</sup> 2011.

The fabric committee has met during the course of the last year on two occasions. As a result of its recommendation, Josie Harding set up a group of users of the Christian Centre to help monitor and resolve issues that arise during the course of its use. As a result, one recommendation has been that users of the Christian Centre should take joint responsibility for its continuing cleanliness.

The Christian centre carpet was cleaned in December 2010.

As Churchwardens, we are conscious of our indebtedness to many people who make our work a lot easier. Particular thanks have to go to the selfless but highly skilled work of Maurice Smith, but also to Vic Parrett, Frank Harvey and Peter Love.

Chris Hurling and Janet Parrett, Churchwardens 2011

**Chris Hurling and Janet Parrett**

## Gift Aid

May I say a very big 'thank you' to everyone for their generous financial contributions to the work and upkeep of St Peter & St Paul's Church over the past year, whether Gift Aided or Planned Giving in weekly envelopes, standing orders or donations in the weekly collections.

The Income Tax claimed on Gift Aided contributions makes a significant contribution to our funds. In the year to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010 the amount of tax rebated under Gift Aid was £11758, and in this current year to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011, we expect to have received some £14400. However from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the Gift Aid tax rebate reduces from 28p in the £ to 25p in the £, which will mean a drop of some £4000 in the Church income at the current level.

If there is anyone who pays income tax and would like to donate to the Church under the Gift Aid system and who has not completed a Declaration form, please contact me. Also, please let me know if your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax or if you change your address, so that I can amend the records.

Please contact me on 01304 822440, email [sarahplove@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahplove@btinternet.com) or in Church.

**Sarah Love**

## Church Music

In producing this report, it gives me an opportunity to thank the considerable number of people who contribute to our music in church.

The Choir is made up of faithful members who gather regularly Friday by Friday to familiarise themselves with the music for Sunday, and also to produce items for singing during Communion and at special times of year such as Christmas. *Thank you all.*

Numbers are slightly smaller than in the past, and I am sure that there are those of you who might enjoy a new challenge, so if you are seeking a different focus at the moment, come and join us.

At present we are delighted with our young soloists who sing so beautifully and help us often when we find some songs unfamiliar. So *thank you* Serena, Perry and Zac for being willing to lead from the front.

There are not many churches which enjoy the services of three organists, so I need to express our gratitude to Edward and Anne for the contribution they make to our music. Tony too offers invaluable service as an accompanist on some Wednesday mornings.

Our church Band is of a mixed age group and plays regularly on the third Sunday morning of each month. Edward Turner and Andrew Fellows are the accompanists. The younger members of the Band also play for Sunday Club on the first Sunday of each month. *Huge thanks.*

The band and soloists also provided the music in the Market Square for Pentecost Praise. This took a bit of courage, but it was appreciated by a large attendance and some girls were even dancing to the music on the far pavement.

Last July we had the privilege of being invited to lead a service on the green at Alkham. All the equipment was set up by Ben Curtis, and we were blessed with almost dry weather. We have been invited back this year.

The music is supported by Josie who produces the hymns on the screen each week, and by those who man the data projector and the sound system. *Thank you* Josie, Nick, Maurice, the Curtis family, Alistair and the new members of the team.

Our hymns are very precious to us. Lines from hymns and songs often come to mind when we are praying, and serve to help us to express what we feel. I would ask for understanding as we progress into newer forms of singing. These songs appear tricky, but in fact are designed for easier participation by a fairly large congregation such as ours. Some will be liked more than others, but that is true of all hymns. Please look into the words, which can be deeply spiritual and often use the scriptures in a very meaningful way. Please rest assured we are not planning to throw out the older hymns!

Above all, continue to praise God in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

## Ralph Harding



## Over 11's Youth Ministry ("CDJ") CDJ Annual Report – 2011

I finished my last annual report with the paragraph "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." After an interesting year earthed in God's revelation we now feel that God, in his grace, has started to give us a pattern for not just the year ahead, but the years ahead.

Before we reached this point in December, we needed to look closely at everything that CDJ has been committed to and to decide what we needed to continue and what was proving a distraction. After much prayerful consideration by a number of people we decided that it was no longer appropriate to continue the prayer and praise service in its current form. We had been struggling with format for over a year and it was clear that this was not something that the congregation particularly wanted or valued (attendance at the last one in July was around 6 people other than those participating). It is important that as a congregation we move on and do not allow things to become enshrined simply because they have been appropriate in the past. This has freed up Marc to explore different areas of worship with our young people in a non critical environment and has helped him develop ways of worship which we plan to use in our long term vision. He is currently working on a labyrinth style worship experience (based on the "Breathe" model).

The CDJ Worship band is now playing for Sunday Club on the first Sunday of each month and are members of the more general band which supports the All Age Worship. We would welcome prayerful consideration about how we move plans for a worship band concentrating solely on 21<sup>st</sup> century music forward. The young people are also assisting with Sunday Club and with Sunshine Club as well as other aspects of the church life.

The Sunday morning sessions continue to prosper and we have moved over to a more lectionary based system. The fact that the Youth for Christ material is now made available in a searchable database has made this possible. I work through the lectionary, identify the themes and then choose suitable material. Marc and I fill the gaps with the material that we produce ourselves. This is a mixture of fun activities, Bible study and thought provoking discussion. The young people never cease to surprise us with their insight and thoughts (proving that whatever we as adults think they do occasionally listen to all of us!). We will review this in September as some of our older members move onto university or other activities and we welcome some new members who will inevitably change the dynamic of the group.

We have struggled to find a format for the Sunday evening session over a number of years, however, now that we no longer have to take a week out for prayer and praise, we have

found a format that is beginning to work. We have decided to concentrate on certain parts of scripture, we have started with the Lord's Prayer and will shortly be moving on to the Ten Commandments and then we will go back to the Beatitudes. I have written all the material for this and I have found it intensely stimulating, theologically, and coupled with the discussions we have been having it has been a very exciting time for all of us. We do about 30 minutes discussion, followed by a worship activity (organised and led by Marc) and finish with social time. So far this has proved to be the most workable format. Again we will review this in September as the group changes.

The start of the journey for God's revelation started at the Youthwork Summit in October. This was a new venture. The day consisted of a whole series of 10 minute slots designed to start people thinking, and indeed they did. The day ended with an address by Mark Russell, head of the Church Army which was extremely thought provoking and really started us thinking about where the church is in relation to young people and where young people are in relation to the church. The main thing that emerged was that young people look at what they are being modelled rather than what is being "said" to them and the summit started the discussion about relationships rather than straight down the line Bible teaching (although that is very important too). It gave us real pause for thought about what we are modelling as individual youth leaders, but also what the congregation is modelling. The Lord is still giving us fresh revelations about this, not quite on a daily basis but certain on a regular basis. For Christians who like the white water rafting aspect of faith this has been hard as we have had to take a close look at ourselves but also very exciting and challenging. We are more than happy to talk to people about what we are experiencing, but only if you want us to. We hope that some of you have noticed the change in us, as we have noticed the changes in our young people over the last 6 months.

As a response to a challenge at the summit we decided to do a prayer walk round the village on October 31<sup>st</sup>. We wanted to claim the village back for the light. We invited the young people and any members of the congregation who wanted to come with us, but in the end it was just the two of us. We walked the lantern village praying the Northumbria prayers of light on each street corner. As we approached the Co-Op, there were a group of teenage boys sat on the fence by the river. We walked past them expecting a bit of abuse, what they actually yelled at us was "There goes the lantern of love", which certainly wasn't what we were expecting! We didn't know these young people, but it just goes to show that there is hope for evangelism in our village and with the missing generation.

The Youthwork Conference in November on the theme of surrender built further on the vision that God was slowly building up for us one step at a time. The idea was that without total surrender of everything to God then we couldn't move forward. Again the theme centred on the model we are presenting to our young people on issues such as becoming familiar with God's word, commitment to worshipping in God's name, commitment to social action and social justice and many more. This was a real challenge and the worship, led by Vicky Beeching, was a real inspiration. This year we came back with our hearts full of what surrender to God really means and what the results can be.

Over the next year, we feel called to start to look at ways in which can begin evangelism to the young people in River and to bring them to know God's kingdom. This starts with our own young people but will, we hope, widen out, and we ask for your prayers as we seek God's will with this. We have to accept that this may not mean "bottoms" on our pews at standard services, but may mean running specifically targeted worship events with fresh expressions of worship designed to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century young people where they are at. We have to accept that the young people are not necessarily going to come to us, we need to go out to them.

One of the most interesting challenges thrown out at the Youthwork Conference was the understanding that young people make the best evangelists to their own kind, which is absolutely true. The challenge was that where do they see the model of evangelism, is it something that is important in the church congregation, is it something that the church is

committed to. If the young people do not see the congregation acting sacrificially to encourage people into the kingdom of God they will not see the importance themselves.

As you can see, we believe that God is calling us to an exciting and challenging time ahead and I do not apologise for saying that Satan is already trying his distraction techniques, and we need the whole vision to be covered in constant protective prayer.

In the excitement of the vision ahead, it is important not to forget the excitement of the present and all the hard work which takes place Sunday by Sunday. I would like to thank Marc and Nigel for all their help and support over the year. The assistance, support and encouragement of the churchwardens is always valued and Maurice's ability to keep the upstairs radiator working is always appreciated.

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev 21:3) (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 non Church supporters, 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 Maria Staveley and her daughters, who kept the Soup Kitchen open during the snow last year, by transporting provisions to the portakabin by sledge when road transport was almost impossible.

Perhaps due to the continuing economic uncertainty, numbers at the Soup Kitchen seem to be steadily rising in recent months - maybe a sign of things to come.

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

## **Cottager's Allotments Trust**

### **Report to the APCM on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

#### **Trustees.**

Three trustees administer the Trust. The first trustees in the Scheme Document sealed on the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 £16,526.40 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 (£15,507.01 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009). Bank balances held at CAF Bank on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 were £4,385.20 (£3,554.05 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009).

#### **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 2010:**

#### **Income :**

|   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | £             | £             |
| Balance brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010: |               | 3,554.05      |
| Bank interest:  | 3.92          |               |
| Dividends:  | 707.23        |               |
| Rent:   | <u>120.00</u> |               |
|   |               | <u>831.15</u> |

#### **Outgoings:**

Nil

**Balance to carry forward to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 :                    4,385.20**

## Notes.

Unusually, there were no requests for financial assistance during 2010.

Accounts prepared by Adrian Fellows, Hon Treasurer on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011.



## Children

When we come to think about Children's work at River we realise that quite a lot goes on. On Sundays – Sunday club; Thursdays, fortnightly – Sunshine club; Christmas fun day and summer holiday club; school visits – weekly assembly; Pre-School – weekly story telling. Also this year the Open Morning which had a variety of things in which children and families could participate – decorating the font, craft activities, making music with the bells and prayer stations.

In our church this involves a great many adults. Heartfelt thanks go to all who give time, energy and commitment to share their love of Jesus with our children. It is a great joy to watch the children grow – during the past year some have taken their first steps, some said their first words, others have started school. Some have taken on responsibilities in Church – reading, I.T., taking the collection; all have mastered new skills, hopefully in the knowledge that they are loved by us and more importantly by Jesus. It is good to be part of a church family with both young and old. We have much to learn from each other.

Thank you to Paddy Philpott who has joined the Sunday Club team. Thanks also go to the Young People who have begun to lead our music in Sunday Club on the first Sunday of each month – this is a welcome addition to the worship time we have together before Communion. Sunday singing has long been one of the means of carrying Sunday's truths with us through the week and my prayer is that the words we sang last Sunday may stay with the children – "Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong, forever God is with us. Forever".

**Josie Harding,  
Children's Minister**



## Tuesday Lunch Club

Our year commences in August with a coffee morning and informal AGM which is an opportunity to bring records up to date and for members to voice concerns or suggestions.

The number of guests attending each week fluctuates due to illness, hospital visits etc. but the number at present on the books is 33 – we are usually able to take more.

Lunch Club is so fortunate in having a dedicated staff of 24, fully committed to the care and welfare of our guests. Included in this number are 3 new members who have recently joined the team. Grateful thanks go to each and every one – without them this valuable service would not be possible.

**Celia Powell**

### **Sunday Half Hour**

Sunday Half Hour, our weekly visit with the Methodists to the local care homes, has continued throughout the year and is generally well received by them. We have a Bible reading, a short talk and simple prayers but we have found that what the residents enjoy most is the hymn singing and we usually manage three or four each visit. Old hymns are especially favoured and many of the residents know the words. *All Things Bright and Beautiful* is a perennial favourite, so we sing it with gusto quite often!! Although many of the residents are awake and participating, at some of the homes it can look as if people are either asleep or not listening, so we are surprised when they join in with the Lord's Prayer or we see lips move during the hymns.

Every year we ask for people to join us but sadly there is no response. Why not give it a try? It is very much more enjoyable and rewarding than you might imagine and in a small way gives people the chance to communicate with God who otherwise might not be able to. None of us is getting any younger and who knows, we may be very glad, at some future date, to see representatives from the local churches bringing the light of Christ into our lives. Please do consider joining us, half an hour on a Sunday afternoon once or twice in a three-month period isn't too arduous, is it?

**Jill Chandler**  
**Member of the Sunday Half Hour Team.**



### **Madagascar Link**

We have continued to pray for the work of Bishop Gilbert in Madagascar, in particular the city of Fianarantsoa. He visited us briefly last June and we have been able to support the building of St Mark's hostel, next to where the cathedral is being built. The political situation in Madagascar is still volatile and the poverty there is not helped by sanctions nor their internal squabbles. Nevertheless Bishop Gilbert and his diocese is a notable success story in faithfulness to Jesus; so our link is certainly one to continue with. A visit from our diocese is planned for this coming summer strengthening the bonds of our Christian love.

**Andy Bawtree**



### **Deanery Synod**

Yet another year passes and what have we done? Deanery Synod has continued its journey around the Deanery visiting St Mary's in July when the Archdeacon, Sheila Watson, spoke to us and then to St Martin's in October when we heard from David Slater who had

recently been appointed as a pastoral assistant. He spoke about his time as Lay Chaplain at Heathrow Airport. We then heard from Caroline Pinchbeck who spoke about life in the country working in a rural parish.

The February meeting found us at St Peter and St Paul's, Charlton where the Bishop of Dover joined us and spoke about his first impressions of life in the Diocese – most entertaining and enlightening!

Deanery Synod is probably unknown to most weekly worshippers but it does provide a forum for representatives from all the Churches in the local area to meet and discuss topical issues. Meeting friends from local Churches confirms my belief that we are all working towards the same goal. Praise the Lord!



**Tim Moseling**

### **Social Committee**

Sometimes nothing happens for a reason. The Social Committee at St Peter's, River has not had a particularly exciting year. People are busy and there are lots of calls on their time which sometimes means other things are put on hold. We have not had a meeting, but that doesn't matter because there are far too many irrelevant meetings held nationwide each year. The year has gone much too quickly, but I suppose that's part and parcel of growing old! Sounding very negative so far, but it doesn't get better. However we are looking forward and are planning various events for the coming year – watch this space!

**Tim Moseling**



### **Sanctuary Guild**

The Sanctuary Guild team continues to provide flowers for the church week by week due to a dedicated group of ladies who give up their time willingly to keep the church looking beautiful. We are able to do this because of the congregation's generosity in providing funds. In this way we are able to celebrate lives of loved ones and friends who have passed on. In addition there are the special festivals which are again supported by the congregation - please keep it up!!

There have been several weddings during the year where the brides chose their colour scheme and provided us with the money. It is always a pleasure to work with beautiful flowers.

We can always do with extra pairs of hands and if you think you have the skills or would like to learn please volunteer – you will be most welcome.

I must add my personal thanks to the team of ladies – where would I be without them?! Thank you ladies.

Thanks to you all for your encouragement and please continue to support us.

**Elizabeth Weaver**

## Healing.

We believe very much in God's healing power and give thanks once again for the healing that has taken place in people's lives over the last twelve months, physical, mental and spiritual healing as well as the healing that can come from death itself. 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, and the prayers of Ellen, Grace, Evelyn and others are much appreciated. We also pray in homes, in hospitals and in hospices, wherever we need to or are asked to. 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 Residential/nursing homes in the parish which provide varying degrees of care to people. These are visited on Sunday afternoons along with some of the Methodists for Sunday half hour . 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 Crowley

**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**

When asked what I should report, our members gave the following comments:

"We have covered a lot of interesting ground"

"We know each other better...warts and all!"

"We enjoy listening to beautiful music and prayers"

Having met every Wednesday evening during term time, our group of between 8 and 11 members, have studied many As well as this, we finished the Jesus Rediscovered course, had a few weeks when circumstances stopped us meeting...including problems with snow and hills, again! and now we have one week of the Beatitudes to complete before Lent.

Again, our thanks for his leadership go to Maurice.

(I have plenty of chairs if anyone would like to join us.)

**Janet Jowett**

2. **Wednesday evening Bible Study Group at Mill Close and Meadway**  
different topics including several of the women in the Bible. We have followed a course related to the daily readings from 'Every Day With Jesus' and we also undertook a course in prayer which was inspired by various peoples' experiences and how God had worked in their lives.  
We completed the Lent course together and derived some fascinating thoughts and discussions from our focus on the cross.  
We are all looking forward to the new Lent study, which centres on Discipleship. Hopefully this will inspire us all for 2011 and into 2012.  
We have been fortunate to have had two different venues this year and all group members would like to express their thanks for the hospitality shown to us by Brenda and Alan as well as Sarah.

**Lynne Watson**

3. **Friday Morning House Group**  
Over the last year 8 of us have enjoyed a number of different studies together, including a book entitled "A Lineage of Grace" by Francine Rivers, which looked in depth at five women of the Bible who changed eternity- Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary. We have also thoroughly enjoyed a course by Rick Warren on dvd called "God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions".  
We have laughed and cried together, prayed and rejoiced at answered prayers together, studied and questioned and regularly enjoyed tasty things to eat! We also planned and organised a second Fun Morning, "Countdown to Christmas" for about 70 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. However after eight years of faithful work David and Elaine Grayling have stepped down. Our thanks go to them and Karen Blanch along with Tim Moseling for their work in regularly putting it together and Maurice Palmer for printing it. We are in the process of looking at our communications internally and around the village and how we can best use the resources we have to encourage one another in our discipleship and reach out to our community, with Jesus message to repent and believe the Good News.

**Andy Bawtree**

## **Website**

The Church website, ([www.rivercofe.co.uk](http://www.rivercofe.co.uk)) has been up and running since Oct 2007 and now attracts an average of 18 visits a day, which equates to around 550 visits every month. In fact traffic to the site has increased by over 35% since this time last year! As you would expect the majority of visitors are from Great Britain, accounting for around two thirds of all hits, however a further 20% are from the United States (perhaps Andy still has a following from the other side of the Atlantic!) Surprisingly 6% of hits come from the Netherlands, with everyone else making up the final 4%.

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. We are starting to add recordings of sermons to the site for people to listen to, and other items are slowly being

added. The website is constantly being improved, and therefore if you haven't visited for a while, why not take a look?

**Ben Curtis**  
**Webmaster**

### **Christians Together in Dover**

CTiD is a body made up of representatives of nearly all the churches in Dover. It exists to initiate and coordinate the ecumenical Christian activities of our town. Our church representatives are Andy Bawtree our Vicar, Jan Jones, and Ralph Harding. Until recently, Megan Richardson has been a rep., and we thank her for giving this service.

Andy is Vice-chairman (a two-year post), and in this capacity is responsible for organising the Good Friday Walk of Christian Witness.

The Council meets four times a year, and it is usual that each meeting invites a speaker of vital Christian interest; last September we enjoyed an informative talk on the work of Gideons International. Business then proceeds, and you may be surprised at the scope of items covered in the meetings: Good Friday Walk of Witness; Pentecost Praise (music brilliantly led by our young people last year); Sea Sunday service; Regatta Songs of Praise; Dover Children's Holiday Club; Halleluia Party; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; Palm Sunday service; Easter sunrise service at the Castle; Peace Light service; Come Carolling; Fair Trade; Music copyright; Global warming; Young offenders; Asylum seekers/immigration; the Soup kitchen; Cross Links; and the new initiative of Street Pastors for Dover.

This is a great project, and our church is one which has undertaken to support the work. We can all participate – by training for the work; by being a prayer partner; or financially. If you want to know more, please consult Andy or Marc and Elizabeth Barber.

CTiD also supports the annual Deanery Service in the Cathedral and is making efforts to encourage a more ecumenical approach.

From all this you can see what a huge responsibility we, as Christians, have in these days. If we are to stem the tide of apathy and destructive political correctness that is surging over us, we need to pray without ceasing, trusting in God who is our refuge and strength.

**Ralph Harding**

### **The Duties of a Village Hall Trustee**

Meetings for the River Hall Committee are held monthly. As a newcomer to the meetings I have been warmly welcomed. Much of the meetings are taken up with maintenance issues, and financial matters but there is always a slot for Society reports and it is interesting to hear about the Dour Dramatic Group, the Rivall magazine, W.I. and the Gardener's Society. I particularly appreciate the updates from the Parish Council meetings and ofcourse it gives me an opportunity to let people know what has been happening at St Peter's and St Paul's. The meetings are an ideal opportunity to get another picture of what is going on in our community of River and may I encourage you all to support the work of the few people who work so hard to keep what is a very useful facility in River running smoothly. The mini market meets every first Thursday of the month and there are occasional coffee mornings and bazaars all designed to boost the Village Hall funds.

**Megan Richardson**

### **Mission**

Below is a summary of the wide variety of organisations and people we currently have the privilege of partnering with as part of our mission outreach at St Peter & St

Paul's. Charitable gifts from you all have been dispersed to these various parts of the world and I would like to thank you for the part you play in this.

- Mike, Laura, Ivan and Deborah, who you may have seen worshipping with us during their trips to the UK, work for Mission Aviation Fellowship. They have recently moved to Kenya from Uganda, where Laura serves as a pilot.

- Bishop Gilbert. Madagascar is heavily exposed to tropical cyclones and it was only a few weeks ago when Bishop Gilbert reported that "cyclone Bingizina damaged our country." Our charitable gifts have contributed to the construction of St Mark's Guest House and work on the Cathedral, which is ongoing.

- Ian and Claire Gray serve the Lord through the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Having completed the translation of the Bible into the Tampulma language, they now act as consultants in other translation activities and literacy programmes, dividing their time between Northern Ireland and Ghana.

- The children continue to sponsor Mery in Honduras and Raphael in Malawi - a recent cake sale raising 40 pounds.

- Closer to home, we sent gift vouchers to the university students in our congregation. The aim was to remind them of the prayerful support of their Church family at home and also to offer some practical help. Also, we have two volunteers for 'Street Pastors' in Dover and will be contributing to their training. The scheme offers help to young people who may be trying to make their way home on Friday and Saturday nights after, perhaps, having had too much to drink.

- Nigel Collins continues his work in the local community as Team Leader of Cross-Links Dover.

- Several retiring collections have been made in response to world disasters, including floods in Australia and more recently the earthquake in New Zealand.

**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, 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:

In May 2010, we enjoyed a special time together for the Rogation Service at St. Radigund's Abbey Farm, which was once again, held inside due to inclement weather.

On 5 September, we held a Covenant Service at the Methodist Church and on Remembrance Sunday, we joined together with many representatives from the village to remember those who gave their lives in the service of our country.

On Advent Sunday, we enjoyed a joint service at the Methodist Church, followed by coffee and mince pies.

We again sent out a joint Christmas card for all the village using 'real card' rather than paper which many people seemed to appreciate. It gave details of our respective services as well as wishing everyone a happy Christmas. I must say, it looked and felt very professional.

In January we joined together for a service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at the Methodist Church. The speaker was Patrick Jones and a meal was enjoyed by all attending.

We are looking forward to sharing together during Lent, meeting at various houses around the village.

On 29 October 2010, we had a visit by the Riding Lights Theatre Company, called "Origins and Lemons" about arguments for and against the existence of God and on 25 February 2011, Lance Pierson gave us the "Bible in Ninety Minutes", both of which were held at St. Peter's and St. Paul's and where it was good to see our friends from the Methodists.

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**

### **Christmas Fayre**

The Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. We had planned to start at 11.0am but as everything seemed to be ready in good time and many eager bargain hunters were waiting outside in miserable conditions, we started at 10.30am.

I would like to say a particular "Thank you" to the group of very willing and hard working helpers who arrived on Friday afternoon to set up stalls and games. This was the best turn-out we have ever had and much merriment ensued whilst tables were transported, books, ornaments, CDs, teddies etc were sorted and labelled. The church and Christian centre were quickly transformed. Saturday arrived and everything looked wonderful with sparkly lights and bright colours throughout. The Dover carnival princesses, in powder blue dresses, floated through the crowds.

The morning was cold and snowy and I feared that people would not venture out onto slippery pavements. However, many brave souls arrived to spend their pennies and were enticed to stay for lunch by the delicious smells of home-made soups and cakes coming from the kitchen.

The raffle was very well supported and made £254, contributing to a grand total of £1777.28.

A further £20 was raised by selling books etc after the morning service in church the following Sunday. This £20 was donated to the Christmas flowers' fund.

It was really good to see several new volunteers this year (including a few husbands we don't often see at church). Thanks to everyone who helped in many different ways to make the Fayre a great success again this year.

**Gaynor Hurling**