

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

**Reports for the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
at  
12 noon  
in the Church**

**St Peter and St Paul's Church, River**  
**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council**  
**for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.**

**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> 2007 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	The Revd Andy Bawtree MA, BD. (from Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> 2007)	Chair
Reader:	Mr Don Soppitt	
Wardens:	Mr Paul Bailey Mr Chris Hurling	
Authorised Lay Children's Minister	Josie Harding	
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mrs Anne Beverton Mrs Jill Chandler Mr Tim Moseling	
Elected Members	Mrs Pauline Bailey Mr Marc Barber Mr Peter Cotterrill Mr Nigel Curtis Mr Ralph Harding Mrs Phyllis Ives Mrs Celia Powell Mr Nicholas Prebble Mrs Sheila Swann Miss Megan Richardson Ms Lynne Watson Mrs Elizabeth Weaver	
Co-Opted Members	Mr Adrian Fellows Mrs Gill Rowland	Treasurer Secretary

**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.

### **Objectives and Activities**

St Peter and St Paul's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Christian Centre, attached to the church.

### **Achievements and Performance**

2007 was the first year of a new Church Electoral Roll and 141 names were reported as being on the Roll, although 7 more forms were received but unable to be added to the Roll until after the APCM. During the course of the year a further 10 names have been added, making the total additions for the year 17 names. During the year there have been 6 deletions, one person has moved away from the parish and 5 people have died. Thus the current Roll stands at 152 names. 64 of those on the Roll are not resident in the parish.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October was 136, but this number increased at festivals.

### **Review of the Year**

The full PCC met five times in the year following the 2007 APCM, with an average attendance of 80%. Each meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Standing Committee, comprising the Vicar, Treasurer, Wardens, Secretary, Mr Harding and Mr Soppitt. These meetings reviewed any issues that had arisen since the last PCC and set the Agenda for the next.

Finance was regularly discussed and reviewed at PCC meetings.. It was agreed to tithe our giving and to focus on four charities in the year; The Madagascar Link, The Mildmay Missions Hospice, London, The Barnabas Trust and Crosslinks. Nigel Collins from Crosslinks attended a meeting to give a report of the work and needs of this group and to indicate how the money given by St Peter and St Paul's would help with their mission. A full financial report is included with this booklet.

There was much discussion, too, on the Deanery's Bidding Process to determine the quota payment. It was felt that the process is neither fair nor transparent and our Deanery Synod representatives have sought to encourage a change in the system for next year.

Reports on the fabric of the church were a regular feature of meetings, with the theft of the lead from the roof and water damage being key concerns. As a result of the theft, CCTV has now been installed. Further details are to be found in the Fabric Report on the following pages.

Some time was spent in discussion of how to improve our audio/visual equipment in order for worshippers to be able to take a fuller part in services. This work is ongoing, but, following advice from the Diocese, a faculty is to be applied for to authorise the work, together with creating a ramp at the back of the church to replace the small step which can make access difficult and can be dangerous.

It was agreed that we need to be more intentional in our care and concern for our church community and a scheme of Pastoral Partners has been established. By this

system we each look out specifically for one other person, although this does not mean, of course, that we stop noticing everyone else!

Time and thought was given to "Children and Communion". Young, unconfirmed members of the Church family may receive communion providing they have received preparation and that their parents are comfortable with this. Ted Hurst, The Diocesan Children's Minister, preached on this in January to share with the whole congregation the reasons for this practice.

The Healing Team continue to be available after services and the Social Committee has arranged many successful events, detailed later in this booklet.

A bequest from the late Grace Brisley enabled new Bibles to be bought for the church so that readings could be followed, and a new home communion set, so that more than one visit could take place at a time. Home communion visits take place regularly for those unable to receive communion at church. The PCC was commissioned to administer the chalice and it was agreed that Deputy Wardens could be commissioned as and when needed.

Work among our teenagers continues to flourish and the PCC received a lively presentation on the activities of our "Crazy Disciples of Jesus" together with details of the vision, components and outreach that inform the planning for this group.

The "Alpha Course" ran in the autumn in conjunction with our Methodist brethren and we also worked together in the Lent house groups, following the theme of "The Purpose Driven Life". Ken Palmer, the Senior Steward of the Methodists has attended more recent PCC meetings and Peter Cotterrill has represented St Peter and St Paul at meetings of the Methodist Council. The "Magnet" continues to flourish and remains a useful source of information about the work of the Christian Churches in River. We continue to work on a "Welcome Pack" to give to visitors to our church informing them about key personnel and activities. It is hoped to open our church between spring and autumn to allow visitors in.

The PCC attended an Away Day in January at Diocesan House where there was time and peace enough to explore our calling and our mission.

## **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 audited accounts is attached to this document.

Approved by the PCC on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on their behalf by

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 2007**

**Independent Examiner**

John R Parsons FCA  
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 2007, 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**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulationshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John R Parsons FCA  
3 Mill Race  
River  
Dover  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

## **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 2007**

	<b>2007</b>		<b>2006</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>				
<b><u>Regular Giving</u></b>				
Net Covenants				
	37,701		37,605	
Envelopes		2,695		2,317
Refund of Tax	<u>10,499</u>	50,895	<u>10,909</u>	50,831
<b><u>Other Voluntary Giving</u></b>				
Collections		6,247		3,445
Christmas Bazaar		1,460		1,432
Fun Days and Youth Organisations		569		583
Magazine/Bookstall		337		301
Lunch Club		1,087		1,395
Miscellaneous Appeals and Donations		5,049		2,711
Legacies	<u>25,220</u>	39,969	<u>951</u>	10,818
<b><u>Other Income</u></b>				
Parish Fees		5,792		2,984
Christian Centre Rent		5,712		5,406
Interest and Dividends		1,660		790
Sale of Investment		-		1,074
Reimbursement of Interregnum Costs	<u>1,858</u>	<u>15,022</u>	-	<u>10,254</u>
		105,886		71,903
<b><u>Excess of Payments over Receipts</u></b>		<u>-</u>		<u>2,965</u>
		<u>£105,886</u>		<u>£74,868</u>
<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>				
<b><u>Ministry</u></b>				
Vicar's Expenses		1,279		-
Payments to Visiting Clergy		<u>342</u>	1,621	<u>475</u> 475
<b><u>Services</u></b>				
Upkeep of Services		1,920		842
Organ and Piano Tuning		107		101
Payments to Verger, Organist, Choir and Cleaners		<u>1,565</u>	3,592	<u>2,080</u> 3,023
<b><u>Building Costs</u></b>				
Heating, Lighting, Water and Cleaning Materials		3,148		2,526
Insurance		2,828		2,721
Church, Christian Centre and Vicarage Repairs and Maintenance		<u>1,851</u>	7,827	<u>2,211</u> 7,458
<b><u>Other Parish Expenditure</u></b>				
Fun Days and Youth Organisations		412		433
Magazine		150		240
Lunch Club		415		478
Parish Administration and Miscellaneous Expenses		<u>3,174</u>	4,151	<u>3,727</u> 4,878
<b><u>Payments Outside the Parish</u></b>				
Missions, Appeals and Charities		4,906		4,430
Diocesan Quota and Deanery Levy		<u>54,896</u>	59,802	<u>53,665</u> 58,095
<b><u>Capital Expenditure</u></b>				
Sound Equipment/Desktop Computer		-		939
CCTV Equipment		1,680		-
Vicarage Carpets & Flooring		<u>1,305</u>	<u>2,985</u>	<u>-</u> <u>939</u>
			79,978	74,868
<b><u>Excess of Receipts over Payments</u></b>		<u>25,908</u>		<u>-</u>
		<u>£105,886</u>		<u>£74,868</u>

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

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets - Net Book Value</u>		
Office Equipment	602	802
Chairs and Plaques	1,756	2,341
Carpet	501	668
Sound System	129	172
Projector	389	519
Staging	152	202
Choir Frontals	164	219
Christian Centre Kitchen Refurbishment	838	1,118
CCTV Equipment	1,260	-
Vicarage Carpets & Flooring	979	-
	<u>6,770</u>	<u>6,041</u>
 <b>Monetary Assets</b>		
Community Account	14,034	12,676
Business Premium Account	1,179	2,613
C.B.F. - General Purposes	42,036	16,052
	<u>57,249</u>	<u>31,341</u>
 <u>Investments</u>		
COIF Charity Investment Fund		
- re the late Revd. F.W.R.Mason - 31 shares	363	355
- re the late W.Coleman - 57 shares	667	654
3.5% War Stock (£52.65)	43	43
2.5% Treasury Stock 1975 (£27.46)	16	16
	<u>1,089</u>	<u>1,068</u>
 <b><u>TOTAL ASSETS (excluding Debtors)</u></b>	<b><u>£65,108</u></b>	<b><u>£38,450</u></b>
 <b><u>DEBTORS</u></b>		
Refund of Income Tax (receivable 2008)	<u>£1,664</u>	<u>£1,759</u>
 <b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Creditors	<u>£502</u>	<u>£847</u>

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

**MOVEMENT OF FUNDS 2007**

	£	£	£	£
<u>BALANCES as at 1st January 2007</u>				
Community Account	12,676			
Business Premium Account	2,613			
C.B.F. - General Purposes	<u>16,052</u>	31,341		
 <u>RECEIPTS 2007</u>				
General Fund		105,886		
 <u>PAYMENTS 2007</u>				
General Fund				79,978
 <u>BALANCES as at 31st December 2007</u>				
Community Account			14,034	
Business Premium Account			1,179	
C.B.F. - General Purposes			<u>42,03</u>	57,249
		<u>£137,227</u>		<u>£137,227</u>

## Reports from Wardens and Parish Organisations

### **Fabric Report**

The following is a brief account of action regarding the upkeep and repair of the fabric and its facilities over the last year:

A very successful churchyard clean-up day was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, supported by a mixed group of approximately 15 people who unstintingly cut, raked, sawed and tidied their way through most of that Saturday.

In common with a number of ancient (and not so ancient) buildings in this area, we had five visits over a period of five weeks from metal thieves who stole quantities of lead from our church. The initial cost to Ecclesiastical Insurance was in the region of £3000 of which we had to pay the first £50 of each reporting. As far as we are aware, the thieves have not been apprehended. Wherever they go in the next life, they will not have a roof. Our lead is now treated with Smartwater. Smartwater is an invisible marker, detectable only by the use of infra-red equipment, which serves to provide a unique identifier for metals (ie the marker coding as used at River church identifies where the metal is from and hopefully who has stolen it). Use of 'Smartwater' is recommended by Ecclesiastical Insurance as a deterrent.

Following on from this, a CCTV system has been installed to watch over vulnerable areas. Cameras record onto DVD for 24 hours daily, and key areas are lit at night to enable the cameras to identify people behaving strangely!

A missing slate in the apse which resulted in water soaking the chancel carpet on a number of occasions, has been replaced at a cost of £95.00

During the period September to November, soundings were taken about the feasibility of a footpath being created along Minnis Lane immediately outside the church leading up to the junction with Lewisham Road opposite the Post Office. Numerous letters were written, and eventually representatives from Kent Highways held a site meeting with Chris. It was agreed in outline that in exchange for the building of a footpath and improvement of the notice-board corner, St Peter and St Paul would donate a 2 metre wide strip of unused land. The Kent Highways people were enthusiastic in their support for the scheme, though could not guarantee during which funding year the works would take place. Charlier Construction estimated £30,000 as a cost if they were asked to do the job.

Maurice Smith and I have spent a great deal of time trying to work out how to alleviate the damp penetration occurring inside church on the north wall. The effects of this damp are getting increasingly noticeable and detrimental to the fabric. In November, Peter Lewis, nominated church architect / surveyor, came for a site meeting with builders of his choice and told us what we already knew. He made suggestions but we have heard nothing since. As a result, we had a meeting with Peter Holdstock, who had oversight of the construction of the Christian Centre and the South Aisle extension. The result is that the leaking gutter has been temporarily sealed by Claringbolds the builders. It is likely that as a minimum, gutter replacement will have to take place in conjunction with a small extension of the north roof area where it meets the gutter, in order to avoid water flowing up into the church during heavy downpours. Cost unknown at

this moment. Cost of not doing something will be even greater. Ultimately, that north roof may well have to be felted and relaid.

Internally, the rear of the church nave has been tidied, reordered and rationalised.

The annual servicing of all plant (boilers, central heating) has taken place on schedule.

The church inventory check will take place at the end of February.

A Saturday has been set aside for a top to tail thorough pre-Easter Spring clean of the inside of the church on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Many willing volunteers will be requested, and fed.

Despite no longer having a formal brief or position in the church, Maurice Smith has continued to do that which he feels capable of doing - and saving the church vast amounts of cash and inconvenience in the process. During the last year he (and often Vic Parrett and others also) have

- removed weed growth from the hopper of the organ chamber down-pipe
- rewashed the tap on the churchyard water supply
- replaced the tap (supplied by Vic) to the churchyard water supply
- removed the weed growth around the emergency exit at the North-East corner of the church
- removed a young lime tree from the outside by the east end of the south aisle
- checked and secured all internal door mechanisms
- cleaned the main notice-board thoroughly
- ensured the correct removal of redundant switchgear in the organ chamber, including the residual current device
- cleaned out the south aisle drains, which had become totally blocked leading to flooding of the pathway.
- fitted gutter guards to the Christian centre gutters to prevent leaves blocking the gutters
- checked and cleaned all drains from the Christian Centre down-pipes -two were completely blocked
- replaced defunct light-bulbs when necessary
- replaced both door handles to the double door entrance to the Christian Centre
- replaced all six hinges to those double doors
- cleaned high oriel windows in the Christian Centre
- cleaned high windows above the emergency doors in the west end of the Christian Centre
- adjusted the door to the WC for the disabled
- repaired the door latch to the ladies' WC
- renovated the Christian Centre floor.

We owe a huge 'Thank you' to Maurice and Nigel Curtis, and all who have helped to maintain the church fabric over the last year.

**Chris Hurling  
Warden**

## **Deanery Synod**

After what seemed like a record year last year for the number of Deanery Synod meetings this year has taken us to only three so far.

For our first meeting in June we travelled to Temple Ewell where we were enlightened as to the proposed programme of developments in Dover town. We were told about the multi-million pound investment that was to be made and how Dover would be transformed. As one who was born and bred in Dover I think I am able to say "Watch this space"!

Our second meeting of the year found us in St Margaret-at-Cliffe at what proved to be a rather poorly-attended meeting. The guest speaker was the Rev. David Ratcliff who spoke about the forthcoming Lambeth Conference to be held in Canterbury from July 16<sup>th</sup> - a very auspicious date incidentally as it happens to be my birthday! - to August 4<sup>th</sup> 2008. It is hoped that many people from around the diocese will be involved in the Conference and details can be found online at [www.lambethconference.org](http://www.lambethconference.org). Also at this meeting the Deanery Mission Plan was formally accepted and a working agreement with Cross-Links was also approved.

Our third meeting brought us back into Dover to the parish of St Martin's where we had a very interesting talk about the work of Cautley House in Hythe, a centre for Christian healing and wholeness which is open to everybody.

Deanery Synod continues to give our church representatives the opportunity to meet and talk with people from other parishes around the area and increase the sense of Dover being a lively Christian community.

**Tim Moseling**

## **Social Committee**

River Church's social calendar got under way shortly after the arrival of Andy, our new vicar, in February and took the form of a Quiz with Supper. This was very well attended and a tidy sum was raised for Sanctuary Guild flowers. The next event, a St George's Day supper, was held at Andy's suggestion. This was a slightly more formal affair than usual and we negotiated with several of the Church's young people who were prevailed upon to help serve the meals to the guests. This proved quite successful, the "waiters" deciding to pool their "pay" and spend it on a Pizza evening. At the end of June we once again barn danced to David Sheasby's Vagabonds following a Barbecue. (We now have our own barbecue purchased with profits from other activities.) In September the Harvest Supper took the form of a Bring and Share meal, which was much enjoyed by all. Finally, after the Carol Service just before Christmas, mince pies and mulled wine were served to what seemed like an army to those of us washing glasses in the kitchen! A good end to a good year for social events and we are looking forward to another Quiz in early February.

**Jill Chandler**

## Sunday Half Hour

Sunday Half Hour, our weekly visit in conjunction with the Methodists to the various residential homes in the parish, continued throughout the year with a break during August. These sessions are generally very well received by the residents, although in one home a gentleman complained loudly that we were making too much noise!!

The leaders and musicians all have their own way of presenting the hymns and talks so there is plenty of variation in what the residents experience. Sometimes it appears that people are asleep but once the singing begins or the Lord's Prayer is said, many join in. Old hymns are especially enjoyed and many thanks to the musicians for faithfully turning out on Sunday afternoons. The music seems to please nearly everybody. Most of us visit the homes with the idea of bringing the Lord to people who are not able to get to a church but who have previously belonged to one, but this is not just a one-way arrangement; we nearly always feel afterwards that we have received something special ourselves and even though in one home there is sometimes only one elderly lady who joins us, she clearly looks forward to our visits and that makes it all wonderfully worthwhile. We are always in need of extra help, either in leading simple prayers, Bible reading or leading and if anyone has musical skills they are especially welcome to join us.

**Jill Chandler**  
**Co-ordinator**

## Children

The evidence of the value Jesus placed on children is clear. In Matthew 18, verse 5 Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" and in the next verse he goes on to say, "If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea."

During the past year we have continued to try to follow Jesus' teaching about the importance of children. Children's work is part of the accepted life of our church. We continue to share the love of Christ with children on Sundays and mid-week on a regular basis.

As has been our practice for many years we held a summer holiday week and fun days in both the spring and the autumn and as usual, invitations were sent to children at River School who responded with enthusiasm. The topic in the spring was **Easter** and in the autumn, **Hands**. For the summer holiday week, the subject was **Noah - Man of God**. These events were much enjoyed by all - both helpers and children, and provided a wonderful opportunity for outreach.

On Sundays the children's work has dove-tailed with the pattern of main morning services each Sunday. We have returned to the practice of sharing the beginning of services on Morning Worship Sundays and then leaving for group work in the Christian Centre, whilst continuing to join the congregation at the Eucharistic prayer on Communion Sundays. Each Sunday the children bring a little money for collection and this year we have begun to support two children, Mery and Raphael, through World Vision.

The children have taken part in our Sunday worship, reading and taking the collection, and particularly with drama - at the Sunday Club Anniversary and a memorable Nativity play - with a cast of, if not a thousand, certainly a very crowded stage full! Bell ringing has proved very popular with both players and listeners.

We have been blessed at River with a very supportive and dedicated team of people who have shared their faith with children in our church. Many have been involved with children's work for a good number of years and have watched youngsters grow - both physically and in their knowledge and love of Jesus. To all of them I want to say a huge thank you for their work.

I would like to pay tribute to two of the leaders in particular. Firstly to Eve who has worked steadfastly with the children for more years than I know and has returned to duty at SupaClub following a successful knee replacement. Secondly to Mary Fellows who has recently hung up her Sunday Club baton. In the nine years that she has been a part of our fellowship, Mary's strong faith, sound biblical knowledge and great patience has been an inspiration to the children that she has nurtured.

Mid-week, SupaClub provides a weekly after-school club for primary school children. Kids' Chorus continues to thrive providing a very happy afternoon for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers each month. Assemblies are led each term at River School in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Ralph visits Abbey Pre-School most weeks when he, with the help of Milly and Billy, share Christian stories with the children.

If we are to continue to provide for children, more help is vital. We are in need of adults prepared to commit to this valuable work, both on Sundays and midweek - to build relationships with children in Jesus' name.

**Josie Harding**

## **Over 11's Youth Ministry ("CDJ")**

The time since the last Annual Meeting seems to have flown by with all the different activities which the over-11 age group has been involved with. It doesn't seem possible that this time last year we were wondering what the future would hold as the new vicar arrived . . .

There has been a lot of discussion and experimentation over the year about the kind of teaching material that we would use for this age group. We started off the period Easter to the Summer using Youth Emmaus 2. This is a course designed to nurture those young people who have made a start on their Christian journey and it made a sensible follow-up to the confirmation course that we ran in the Autumn. This went well, but it is only a single 16 week course so we had to think carefully about the way in which the material was developed for September. As Andy wanted all the church to be following the lectionary so all the groups were looking at the same Bible readings at the same time we started to look around for lectionary based material for this age-group. The only lectionary based material for this age group is quite old-fashioned now and we didn't feel that it would suit the needs of the current group. So, Elizabeth set to and wrote a whole term's worth of material based on the lectionary for the group. This was great fun to do and set her looking at all sorts of Bible passages we'd never considered before. Using

resources produced by others in part, but mostly using original ideas the material took shape. This was incredibly time-consuming (we worked out it took around 60 hours to write the material which whilst it might not seem a lot put like this when slotted into a virtually full time working week it soon added up). The groups enjoyed the material and it all went down very well. But after prayerful consideration with Andy in the autumn we decided to move over from a lectionary based system to the Youth for Christ material Rock Solid 2 for use in the mornings and Mettle in the evenings. We started this in January 2008 and so far it is all going well. The material is full of exciting activities (although it does require a lot of pre-meeting preparation by the team to get it to reach its full potential).

Having decided that we shouldn't call ourselves Pathfinders any longer as we are not an affiliated CPAS group and Pathfinders refers only to the 11-14 age group, we set the young people the challenge of coming up with a name for themselves that encompassed how they felt about themselves and the group. They came up with CDJ ("Crazy Disciples of Jesus") and Rachael Fraser designed a superb logo (have a look on the CDJ board). This was launched at the start of the new academic year with a party.

The team working with this age group has started to grow and develop over this last year as we have expanded the different activities. Mr Nigel (known to the rest of you as Nigel Curtis) helps regularly with CDJ on a Sunday Evening and at many of the social events. Andrew Fellows helps with the teaching on a Sunday morning and is our resident drama expert. As we were expecting an influx of young people coming up from Explorers in September, Marc decided that it was time for him to move age-groups and to see how he enjoyed working with a slightly different age-group. Although this started off as an experiment, Marc felt a strong calling at the Youthwork Conference to work with this age group so he has now acquired some responsibilities of his own (see below). It is a great joy to see a team of people starting out to work together to bring the gospel in all its different formats to these young people.

The group itself is going from strength to strength and it is a joy to see the young people starting to stand on their own two feet and to become involved in the wider life of the church as well as with their own activities. A group waited on the table and washed up (no I'm not joking . . .) at the St George's Day Feast, Ben Curtis has put in sterling work on the web-site and with the technology we need for prayer and praise, Zac, Andrew, Simon and Serena are setting up the "CDJ Worship Experience" with Marc's assistance and we hope to draw in the other musicians in the group (Matt, Alex, Perry) as it develops. We seem to see the faces of our young people popping up in services as part of the choir, reading and much much more. The continuing development of Prayer and Praise by the young people is starting to produce fruit.

The fact that the group is going from strength to strength means that we need to prayerfully consider the space in which we hold the group. The upper room is just big enough at the moment but we will need to think carefully about how we manage this if the group grows bigger on a Sunday morning.

Marc and Elizabeth had a challenging weekend at Eastbourne at Youthwork: The Conference. The worship was awesome (8 hours worship in 3 days!) but there were also lots of new ideas to pick up, lots of people to talk to and lots of people to speak to about ideas and practicalities. Jeff Lucas presented the conference with 10 questions to take back to your church. If anyone is interested please ask Elizabeth. It was special for us too, as we went with Phil and Sarah Alcock who are just starting to work with this age

group at CCR in Perpignan. One of the things about working with this age group is that you don't often get to see the fruits of your past labour so it was brilliant to see and be inspired by the depth of their faith and commitment.

We came back from the Conference with the inkling of a strategy which we shared with the young people and which they developed (the theme is Planet "Yoof" Work which has involved, space-ships, rockets and aliens!!). I had the immense privilege of sharing the strategy with the PCC and outlining the vision and strategy that we are developing for the youth ministry in this place.

Finally, we have had a number of social events. We counted up and we reckoned that the group have consumed about 50 pizzas, over 100 sausages (and nearly as many burgers), a reservoir of fizzy pop and several hundred bags of crisps . . . This has mostly occurred at the film evenings which have now become a well-established favourite, but we have had end of term and beginning of term parties as well, of course, as the Saints and Sausages (Halloween alternative) party. One of the highlights was the bonfire party at Mr Nigel's house with fireworks, a proper bonfire and of course, lots of food (kindly provided by Mrs Nigel, alias Kate). The social events are an important part of trying to give the young people a safe environment in which to meet with their Christian friends.

We would like to thank all the support we get from members of the church, we know that there are a number of you who hold this ministry constantly in your prayers (from even as far away as Argèlès sur Mer) and we get constant strength from knowing that we have that support. We also appreciate all the practical support we get from the churchwardens and deputy church-wardens in ensuring things like the radiators in the upper room work, booking the Christian Centre and so on.

Finally to go back to the beginning of my report, a year ago we were wondering what the arrival of a new vicar was going to bring. Well, we are indebted to Andy for his continuing encouragement to the leaders and the young people to walk and live in the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit and for having this ministry at his very heart. We also appreciate Vicky's understanding and support when her home is invaded by teenagers to watch films and be fed (and the assaults on the vicarage green-house!!).

We hope that this ministry will continue to develop in the power of the Holy Spirit and that the team will continue to consider prayerfully all the opportunities which are given to us to work with these young people and the young people with whom we have not yet had contact.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)*

**Elizabeth Barber**

## **Tuesday Lunch Club**

The aim of the Lunch Club is to provide a nourishing meal in friendly surroundings to the elderly, people living alone or with long-term illnesses. We have 40 guests on the

register and an average attendance of 30 each Tuesday. We are extremely lucky to have a dedicated staff of 22 (17 ladies and 5 gentlemen) who work on a rota basis 3 or 4 times per term. The atmosphere in the Christian Centre kitchen on Tuesdays is congenial and relaxed (most of the time!!), the interaction between staff and guests friendly and caring. With Pastoral care in mind we endeavour to keep track of those who are ill and send cards where appropriate.

Those who started the Lunch Club are to be thanked and congratulated - it is a truly satisfying and worthwhile venture.

**Celia Powell**  
**Co-ordinator**

## **Christmas Fayre**

After three planning meetings throughout the year Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November saw a hive of activity in the Christian Centre with stalls being erected, display boards covered and lights being strung. Early Saturday morning the preparations were completed. By the opening of the Fayre stalls were groaning with goodies; a delicious aroma of soup permeating the air; games ready for action - all of which were overlooked by many "happy" faces from the notice boards. The final total for the day slightly exceeded that of 2006 - a good result for all the effort.

Owing to family circumstances (and the need for new ideas) 2007 was my last year as co-ordinator of this event and I take the opportunity to thank everyone concerned for their dedication and support - I have really enjoyed the experience - you could too!!

**Celia Powell**  
**Co-ordinator**

## **Dover Soup Kitchen**

The Soup Kitchen, now in its seventeenth year, continues to feed the needy at 6pm every day of the year, (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day when hot meals are provided at the London Road Church) from a portakabin in Russell Street car park. Volunteers from St. Peter's, with help from members of Whitfield Church, are responsible for the Thursday evening coverage.

Following a request for more helpers, we now have 7 teams of volunteers from St.Peter's and Whitfield. Many thanks to all who assist at the Soup Kitchen or leave tins of soup in the basket at the back of the Church. The work is not always easy as many of the attendees have problems with alcohol or drug abuse but most are very appreciative of what is provided for them.

There are no details of what will happen to the Soup Kitchen once the town centre redevelopment begins later this year, but Dover District Council has agreed to provide a new venue once work eventually begins

**Adrian Fellows**  
**Co-ordinator**

## Cottagers' Allotments Trust

### **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. The current trustee's are:

Adrian Fellows, Secretary/Treasurer.	Rev Andy Bawtree Chairman.	Paul Bailey Member.
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### **Assets.**

Land (vested in the official custodian for Charities and held in trust for the Cottager's Allotments Trust) consists of 2 acres, 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 £19,180.98 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

Bank balances held at Nat West on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 were:

Current Account:	£1,027.73
Reserve Account:	£2,107.88

### **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 they feel they should be treated as residents.

### **Accounts.**

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

## Cottagers' Allotments Trust

### Accounts for 2007

#### Statement for presentation to the APCM on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008

##### Income.

Balance brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2007:		2,716.62
Bank interest:	45.17	
Dividends:	589.90	
Rent:	120.00	
	<hr/>	
	755.07	
		3,471.69

##### Disbursements.

To individuals:	336.08	
Balance carried forward to 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2008:		3,135.61

##### Assets

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007, total units held with COIF Charity Funds were 1,638.63 units @ 1170.55p = £19,180.98. This holding includes 101 units transferred from the Charity of E.P. Coleman in July 2006.

Land in Minnis Lane is currently let for £120 per annum

Adrian Fellows

##### Church Music

Another year has passed in which the Choir has maintained its support for the singing in the church. We have all been greatly encouraged by the new members - Mandi, Serena and Holly Butler who have joined us. The Carol Service in 2007 was very well received and the Choir excelled itself. We were delighted that one or two keen singers, who cannot commit to regular membership, were able to join us for that service, but

saddened that Nina fell and broke her leg so badly the day before and was unable to be with us.

We could do with some more members, and recruitment is always more successful if new members come from the congregation itself. What about it?

We are endeavouring to assist the introduction of new hymns and songs to move the worship forward musically, and we hope that the congregation will welcome this. I am also mindful of the fact that there are many older hymns which mean a lot to us all and we must not lose sight of these.

Friends will be aware that we are raising funds for new choir robes. Those we have are possibly 45 years old and have been cleaned and altered almost to extinction. Serena and Holly's sponsored dip on Boxing Day, plus some donations, has raised £471.00, and we are grateful to the organisers of the recent Quiz Night which raised a further £386, so the fund now stands at about £857.00. There has been much consultation concerning the style and colour of the new robes but we have settled on royal blue, and might have them ready for Easter!

Working so regularly in a small group binds us closely together and we are able to support each other in times of need. We were very sad when Liz Weaver lost Denis in October.

Also, since my last report, Tony and Nina Seers have both gone to join the singing in heaven. They loved the work of our choir and always supported it faithfully.

The Band has a small group of faithful members, and we aim to play for the morning service at least once a month. There is a youth music group which plays for Prayer and Praise and some of the players are in both bands. I know that there are some instrumentalists out there. Come and join us.

I must again pay tribute to Edward Turner and Anne Beverton who give such good and faithful support by their accompaniment.

**Ralph Harding**

## **Sanctuary Guild**

Firstly, I want to pay tribute to my fellow members of the Sanctuary Guild who give their time and talents so willingly week by week and at the festivals during the year.

Secondly, thank you to the members of the congregation who have given money for the flowers not only towards the festivals but week by week either as a memorial or to simply give thanks to God for our church, thereby contributing to its beauty.

As this system of giving has been so successful we would like to think this can continue and there will be a new diary to sign up to after Easter 2008. Although it is traditional to have no flowers during Lent it is always lovely to see the baskets of spring flowers on Mothering Sunday - another task the Sanctuary Guild undertakes.

Flowers are now quite expensive so I am afraid we have had to increase the charge we make to wedding couples. Last year we had a good number of weddings, most of which required flowers. If there is more than one wedding on the same day there is always the opportunity of sharing the cost.

We thank the Social Committee for holding a Wine and Wisdom evening, which raised funds for the Guild last spring. This enables us to buy any extras that are needed and helps to keep us well supplied with oasis.

Thank you for your continued support to keep our church looking beautiful.

*"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." (Matthew 6, 28b-29)*

**Elizabeth Weaver**

## **The Mothers' Union**

The Mothers' Union meets the second Thursday in the month at 2-30 pm in the Christian Centre. We start with a small service, a Hymn, Bible Reading and Prayer. We then have a speaker, followed by a cup of tea and cakes.

Every member tries to live to the Aims and Objectives of the Mothers' Union, to promote family marriage and family life.

If you would like to visit us in view of joining us do come along to one of our meetings where you will receive a very warm welcome. Please check with one of our members what is planned as sometimes we visit other Branches.

Membership is open to Men as well as Women, the only qualification is to have been baptized.

**Pauline Bailey  
Branch Leader**

## **Magnet**

The "Magnet" has been published bi-monthly in the past year and continues to be an invaluable source of information on the services, work and activities of the Christian Churches in River. It also offers items for reflection and entertainment. An effort was made in the last year to encourage more people to contribute to the magazine and although this met with some success the "Magnet" would benefit from a still wider group of people contributing favourite prayers, hymns or anything that will help show the local community how God is alive and working amongst us in River.

That said, our thanks to all who have submitted items for publication or who have helped with distribution: we look forward to the chances and challenges of the coming year.

**David and Elaine Grayling**

## **House Groups**

Several house groups have met during the year in the homes of parishioners. These have sought to foster prayer and study, following (for example) several of the 'York' courses prepared under the guidance of the Archbishop of York and featuring a variety of influential Christians from several traditions. The two most consistent groups have met quite regularly, usually weekly on a Tuesday and a Wednesday evening outside major holiday periods. Others are encouraged to join if they wish to study and discuss issues in a friendly and mutually supportive environment. Small groups enable people to get to know each other better and encourage the examination and development of vocation in a Christian context. The young peoples' meetings on Sunday evenings in the Christian Centre have also grown from these roots.

At Lent, in particular, we meet with our Methodist brothers and sisters in such small groups and this year we are studying the points made in the book 'The Purpose Driven Life' by pastor Rick Warren.

There are also regular meetings on Thursday mornings within the parish of Anglican 'Cursillo' prayer groups at which matters of mutual concern are laid before God in prayer.

**Don Soppitt,  
Lay Reader**

## **The Healing Team**

A small group of people, trained by the diocese, is available throughout the year to pray for healing and wholeness for the sick and disadvantaged in our parish either by individual request or after services of Holy Communion. There is also the occasional dedicated service each year at which prayer is targeted towards those in special need in our community.

**Evelyn Soppitt,  
Coordinator**