

Christ Church Portsdown

Parish Year Book



March 2006

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2006.
To be held at Christ Church on Thursday 23rd March 2006

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of church wardens
4. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 2005
5. Matters arising (previously notified to the chairman)
6. Electoral roll
7. The parish year book:
 - report on the proceedings of the church council
 - report on church goods, fabric and ornaments
8. Parish Finances
 - a. To accept the examined accounts for 2005
 - b. To reappoint the independent examiner
9. Election to Parochial Church Council (2 representatives).
10. Date of the first meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council - (April 2006)
11. Election of sidesmen.
12. Deanery Synod: election of two representatives
13. Portsdown Parish Project
14. Chairman's remarks.
15. Any other business previously notified to the chair
16. Closing Prayer

Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Council held in the Church on Thursday 17th March 2005

The Chair was taken by the Reverend Paul Norton.

1.'Christ's life for the community - through celebration, confidence and compassion'.

Reading from the last Chapter from the Book of Revelation.

2.APOLOGIES ; were received from Ros and Jim Molloy, Ann and David Davies, Sheila and Reg Taylor, Margaret and Martin Baggs, Jenny Whiteside, Emma Dove, Melanie and Richard Brown, Linda and Roger Banks, Tom Gibney, Peter Gill, Nicola Olway, Candice Doughty, Michael Drake, Jean Partridge, Roy West, Thea Williams, Maggie Harris, Gill Cross.

3.NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

Nominations were received as follows:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Rosemary Filtness	Irene Joly	Judy Scott

There being no other nominations, Rosemary Filtness was duly elected. There is a need for another Warden. This will have to be resolved at a later meeting, Revd. Paul Norton expressed the appreciation of the Parish for all that Andy Minchin and Karen Davies had achieved during their term of office. They were presented with flowers and wine.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2004 APCM were received and signed as a correct representation of last year's proceedings .

5. MATTERS ARISING - There were none

At this point a Presentation on the Purbrook & Widley Detached Project was given by Mark and Abbie - two youth workers. They explained about the work and the activities they were doing with the youth. This included Ice Skating , activities at Calshot , playing in a Band, outward bound week in Wales and a sponsored walk from Fair to Fair. £50 was donated to the maternity unit at St. Mary's and £50 to 'Baby Think It Over', educating youngsters on safe sex.

6. THE ELECTORAL ROLL - In her report Jenny Whiteside, the Electoral Roll Officer, stated that the number at present on roll stands at 186. Of these 96 live outside the parish and 90 live within the parish boundary. Average attendance at Church Services was 131. Anyone who wishes to go on the Electoral Roll should fill in an Application form and hand it to the church wardens.

7. THE PARISH YEAR BOOK:- Rev. Paul Norton thanked Gill Cross and Brian Mansbridge for their work in putting together the Parish Year Book - and to all those who submitted reports.

Proposed by Rosemary Filtness seconded by Judy Scott unanimously agreed.

(a) Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council. The report on the proceedings of the church council - p4 of 22- the Chairman thanked the PCC members for their work, especially the outgoing members .It was proposed that the report be adopted by Sheila Gill, seconded by Alison Norton.

Carried unanimously.

(b) Goods, Fabric and Ornaments of the Church; p3 The Chairman thanked the Church wardens for their report. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Molly Ayling , seconded by Len Herrington and was carried unanimously.

(c)CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - A copy of the document is held by the Parish Administrator, Gill Cross, and is available for inspection

8. FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS - The reordering programme that up until 2003 had only incurred architects fees. In 2004 this expanded into Quantity Surveyor fees, publicity expenses and project launch costs. This expense and Hall improvements, doors, windows, electric testing have been the two principal costs during 2004, Nevertheless the Church will need all of us to make a committed increase in our regular giving to cover the further increases in running expenses: 3% would be an ideal start!

(a) To accept the examined accounts for 2004; That these accounts be adopted proposed by Rita Drake seconded by Pat Cole unanimously agreed

(b) To reappoint the independent examiner; This was proposed by Andy Minchin, seconded by Brian Mansbridge, unanimously agreed

Paul Norton thanked Brian Mansbridge for his report and all his work and a vote of thanks to Roy West.

9. ELECTION OF THE P.C.C.

As Pauline Metcalfe, was standing down this year, and Patrick & Cynthia Whittle had finished their term of office as Deanery Synod representatives, the Chairman asked for nominations for the P.C.C

Four nominations were received as follows:

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Patrick Whittle	Jim Molloy	David Davies
Philip Aspey	Karen Davies	Pauline Metcalfe
Pat Hatchard	Ann Dove	Colin Dove
Pat Cole	Gill Cross	Marjery Budd

All nominees were willing to stand. Since there were no other nominations these persons were unanimously elected to serve 3 years on the PCC.

10. DATE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - (2005) Monday 11th. April 7.30pm in the Church.

11. ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS

Judy Scott proposed that the following people be elected/re-elected as sides persons Philip Aspey , June Ames, Roger & Linda Banks, Pat Cole, Rita Drake, Ann & Colin Dove, Maureen Enticknap, Colin Eyres, Sylvia Fisher, Sheila & Peter Gill, Pauline & John Harrison, Harry Horne, Brian & Sheila King , Brian Mansbridge, Roger & Pauline Metcalfe, John Partridge, Harry Rooke, Andrew Silk. Ann and David Davies have offered to help out if needed. I would like to say thank you to all the people on the rota over the past year for their unfailing support and co-operation.

12. DEANERY SYNOD -. Election of two representatives.

Patrick and Cynthia Whittle were thanked for their input on the Deanery Synod on our behalf. Cynthia stays on the PCC as Reader. There were no nominations for the Deanery Synod.

13. PORTSDOWN PARISH PROJECT;

A presentation was given by Sheila Gill and Alison Norton as an opportunity for people to ask questions. (See p.4 of the year book)

14 VICARS REMARKS:.

The Revd Paul Norton said there was potential for spiritual growth in our Parish. The Bible Reading Marathon was a wonderful experience for everyone who took part. Cynthia Whittle was thanked for arranging the Day of Prayer before our APCM.

The lent house groups were well attended , there are now four house groups in the evenings and

one Wednesday afternoon group. Some people may find it less daunting to join a small group, than large services. The Parish meeting will be held on the first Wednesday in the Month. As we continue to work with the other churches in our Kairos Cluster we can look forward to putting into practice those things we have learnt during the research phase, and putting all that to good use within the community.

15. Any Other Business previously notified to the Chair;

16. The Meeting ended with prayers and the Grace at 9.40pm

CHRIST CHURCH REPORTS

INTRODUCTION

"Christ's life for the community - through celebration, confidence and compassion"

Given that I have been on sick leave for much of last year has meant a very different time for the church fellowship as a whole. Despite the challenges of the past year, Christ Church has characteristically moved forward rather than just being content to tread water. My absence has meant more demands made on the ministry team, the church wardens, the standing committee and PCC members. My grateful thanks to them all for a sterling job throughout. I am also grateful for the support of the Diocese and Deanery, who have given invaluable help this year.

I am sure that all have seen with greater clarity how important communication, collaboration and co-operation are in the life of a church fellowship at any time, and just how satisfying it can be when a church pulls together. During my absence, one of the things that I have learned in a new way is the value and importance of support and encouragement. It is good to know that we are never alone on our journey.

I am looking forward to developments in the KAIROS initiative and also in our own Portsdown Parish Centre project. As we continue to be fully involved in these enterprises, our faith will be stretched, but God's faithfulness and grace will always prevail, enabling us to be "at the heart of the community" sharing in the life and love of God's kingdom in this place.

Paul Norton VICAR

Churchwardens report on the estate, fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church

It has been an unusual year to say the least, but with the hard work and support of so many people it has also been a productive one. In May your two new churchwardens took over from Karen Davies and Andy Minchin and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for looking after the parish during their tenure of office. It has been a challenging time for us both and we really appreciate all the love, prayers and support you have given us.

We were blessed by being able to welcome Sandy Phillips to our church as our curate and those who were able to attend the service at the cathedral felt very privileged to be part of her special day. With the unwavering support from Cynthia and Trevor plus help from visiting priests, we have managed to continue with all the services, work on the project and the fund raising activities during the absence of Paul.

The church building, hall and churchyard continue to be maintained in good condition and our grateful thanks go to all the helpers who willingly do all these jobs.

There were urgent repairs that had to be carried out on the hall and some of the church windows had to be repaired due to vandalism.

The scouts and guides are now in their new HQ. The PCC, along with other guests, were invited to attend the grand opening in December and it is good to see the grand finished project after all their hard work and fund raising. We wish them well in their new home. We are very pleased to have Cynthia Whittle as our liaison representative from the PCC and I know she is a very welcome member at the Scouts and guides meetings plus her weekly visits to the Rainbows and guides.

We have had a major re think and overhaul of the project and after many consultations and discussions we have arrived at the point where we are happy with the proposed plans.

Thanks are due to Sheila, Jim and all on the various teams for their hard work and dedication.

We recognise that there is still a lot of hard work and fund raising ahead of us, but we go forward united in our aim and confident of the ultimate success of this project, which will benefit both the wider community and us.

Sylvia Fisher and Rosemary Filtness

Portsdown Parish Centre Project

In its' first full year of operation the newly formed Project Leadership Team and subgroups, working on behalf of the PCC, faced a number of significant challenges.

- Work was completed on the financial viability of approved building plans. These were found to be too ambitious financially and in October, as proposed by the project team, the PCC agreed to limit the budget for initial building changes to £500k. This decision was taken after consideration of a number of different financial options presented to us by our consultants - the Lorica Trust who carried out some detailed work in establishing likely sources of funding for our project. A review of the building plans has taken place and after extensive consultation a new works specification has been prepared. The fundraising plan is now under review by the Appeals Committee and new proposals will be implemented soon.
- There was recognised a requirement to put the project on a firmer business footing in order to be able to present it professionally to outside organisations and importantly to make effective applications for grants. Work has been progressing on a draft Project Book that contains all the relevant information pertaining to the business and management aspects of the project. Issue 1 of the Project Book should be available by the time you read this report.
- A needs analysis was completed in the first half of the year, which has given a much better understanding of our local community and some ideas about how Christ Church, through the development of its buildings, may be able to provide better support. This analysis was supplemented by the report from the Kairos cluster group. Some work has been done already in identifying community partners i.e. groups who already work in the community but who might benefit from the opportunities the project at Christ Church presents. There is still much more to be done.
- The progress of the work of the project team was reported to the PCC monthly. The congregation and wider parish were kept informed and consulted through a number of workshops, displays, articles in the magazine and information leaflets posted and handed out. In spite of best efforts with communications it was a difficult time for all because nothing seemed to be happening! Throughout the year many peoples' valued ideas and views, including all the main groups who use the parish hall, contributed to deliberations but until the decision by the PCC in October the way ahead was uncertain.
- A fundraising group worked very hard throughout the year in organising and running many events that have added a significant sum in excess of £8000 to project funds. The Bible Reading Marathon in March proved to be a wonderful experience for so many people raising more than £5000. Many thanks are due to all those who worked so hard throughout the year to make all these events a success; to all those who have made other donations to project funds; to Maggie Harris and Gill Cross whose beautiful cards have contributed over £300 so far; to Norman for collecting tinfoil and to others who help in different ways.

The project has now moved into the Appeals and Design phase. Many thanks are due to Jim Molloy, Andy Minchin and David Davies who, along with Churchwardens Sylvia and Rosemary and Rita Drake as project administrator, continue to work so hard to progress this project. Special thanks to Alison Norton and Trevor Filtness who because of other commitments had to withdraw from the team last year - their contribution was significant. Likewise many thanks must go to Stuart Davies who has stood down from his leadership of the internal fundraising group - the amount of hard work entailed in this role was considerable but rewarded with so many successful, enjoyable fundraising events.

Report on Financial Stewardship and Gift Aid 2005

It is very helpful to us as a church if you can either pledge a weekly sum or commit to a regular standing order through your bank. Many of you have made such a commitment and, on behalf of the PCC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. It enables us to plan our expenditure against an anticipated income. Please remember that inflation has the effect of eroding the value of our giving over a period of time, so we should all review our pledges and standing orders each year.

Many of you have also gift aided this commitment, and this is extremely valuable to the PCC as we can then claim back the tax from the Inland Revenue. This effectively enhances your gift to the PCC by 28.2%, but at no additional cost to yourself; you merely have to sign a gift aid declaration form, and we will do the rest. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can then claim an extra £2.82 from the government for every £10.00 that you give. If you are a higher rate taxpayer and make a note of your donations on your tax return, you will have the additional benefit of a refund yourself. Please see me if you require details of your donations for this purpose.

Even if you do not want to commit to a regular payment, you can still sign a gift aid declaration. We can then claim back the tax every time you make a donation using one of our envelopes, effectively enhancing your gift by 28.2%. Again, this is very valuable to the PCC and benefits all of us as a church. I know that some of you do not gift aid your donations because you feel that the tax you pay will be insufficient to cover this (particularly if you have retired from work). If this is the case, you can obtain a statement from the Inland Revenue at the end of each financial year (after 5th April) advising you how much tax you paid. If you then advise me, I can ensure that the money you paid in tax is transferred through the gift aid scheme to help support our church. Please see me if you would like more details about this.

We have 103 parishioners who have given either direct by standing order or through our regular or occasional envelope schemes during 2005.

Based on the donations made in 2005, we have submitted claims to the Inland Revenue for over £9,500, a 3% increase on the previous year, and a further £800 from the Bible Reading Marathon in March. As this is all effectively "free money", I would urge you to sign up if you are tax payers and have not already done so. If you would like any information about the gift aid scheme or the envelope scheme, please come and see me, or contact me on telephone 023 9237 0735, or leave a note for me in the "B" pigeon hole in the church porch.

Roger Banks

Electoral Roll

The number at present on Roll stands at 176 members. 93 live outside the parish and 83 within the parish boundary. This trend of half and half representation remains a feature of Christ Church over past years.

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is small in comparison with the number of active members of our church and we would encourage any who are not yet on the Roll to complete an application form (available from the church administrator or electoral roll officer) and hand it to any of the church wardens.

Jenny Whiteside

Communications Group

The Communications Group has continued to meet on a monthly basis since the last annual report. Its membership consists of Graham Olway, Pat Cole, Ismay Doughty, Linda Banks and Keith Fisher. Since the last annual report Alison Norton and Gill Cross have both left the Group and our thanks goes to both of them for their commitment and enthusiasm.

The Group also receives regular reports from the new webmaster and editor of the Portsdown Post (Nigel Wheatley). Specific work over the last year has been to support the Project Leadership Team in developing a communications strategy for the Portsdown Parish Centre Project and to produce a specific notice board for information. We have also reviewed and reorganised (with grateful thanks to Pat Cole) the notice board in the church porch as well as the various other notice boards that you see both in church and the church hall.

During the next 12 months we hope to generate some more publicity for our church services and events to widen the awareness of the local community. As the Portsdown Parish Centre Project continues to move forward we will be looking at ways of securing both local and national publicity for our project and to help secure funds. If any member of the congregation has any ideas they feel we could develop please contact one of the committee members direct or alternatively by e-mail to press.officer@christchurchportsdown.org

Graham Olway

Reader's Report

"Like a well-oiled machine" is the best description of the on-going functioning of our parish and we have seen practical improvements like the re-organisation of the ministers' vestry, with a proper robe cupboard, accessible linen drawers and some informative notice boards.

If some of us seem rather busy, I believe it is because we are aware of many of the wider issues that need to be addressed in a truly outgoing church fellowship. Last year I wrote "now we are four in the ministry team", but in 2005 it seemed to be back to 'square one'. With the vicar and Trevor less available this was a very full year and the Bible Marathon, "Day of Prayer", Lent Course and the Home Groups all required preparation. Taking turns for Sunday and Wednesday services are important aspects of my "preaching and teaching" role. Pastorally there have been funerals and internments of ashes; regular home communions and visits, and fortnightly Friday Fellowship meetings. Then there were PCC meetings with its Worship, Hymn Selection and Mission committees. These all play a part in monitoring progress and ensuring smooth running of the "machine" that provides spiritual input to the parish, and beyond, in the community, seven days a week. In between these were times for writing monthly magazine articles and also organisation of the Parish Holiday. Being on the rota for Toddlers' Coffee and attending Rainbows helped keep me in touch with the younger parishioners! My participation in diocesan and deanery occasions has lessened but I have continued to write book reviews for the national Reader Magazine. As a non-stipendiary lay minister I have appreciated having a definite "day off" enabling me to have some time out. I am also blessed with a husband who as PCC member and assistant warden can be most supportive. It has also been good to have Sylvia and Keith Fisher to turn to, as Warden and Administrator, providing very efficient back up. Last but not least there has been the encouragement and constant love I receive from the regular congregation and the wider 'parish' that make me feel both needed and valued.

Cynthia Whittle

Home Groups and Bible Study

2005 was the year of the Bible Reading Marathon - a special and unforgettable experience. Then followed our Lent Course, which was another York Course, entitled "Better Together". Five groups joined in so that nearly 60 people shared in the discussions for those 6 weeks.

An afternoon group enabled a wider section of church members to take part. The summer study on Exodus was not popular but in Advent the groups picked up again. We began with a 'social time' in church - moving pews to create a circulation space - and then considered the Second Coming. People appreciated a different perspective on familiar Advent and Christmas hymns and carols. It also drew attention to various references that are in our regular Holy Communion service and some people still add "until He comes" at the end of The Grace!

The monthly Parish Meeting has been poorly attended - mainly the group leaders and hosts. The recurring question is where are the rest of the church members and the PCC members? If more people could find time to venture into a home group they may be pleasantly surprised at the informality, fellowship, fun and the opportunity to talk about so many things. I do not know anyone who has opted out of a home group; having once joined in, people tend to put it high on their list of priorities. Without participation in our study and fellowship meetings, a key element of our spiritual growth is lacking - no amount of sermons or services can fill this gap. Perhaps the 100-Minute Bible will encourage a greater involvement during Lent 2006.

Music in Worship

The Christ Church Singers have had a satisfactory year. Two events were particularly successful - the singing marathon at Springfield School and our annual carol service. Attendance at rehearsals has been good and the enthusiasm of members remains as strong as ever. We have even increased the number of tenors! Thanks are due to our regular guest organists - Jack Evans and Susan Honnor.

The band still plays for the family services, where the younger members play flute and drums. A more acceptable balance of sound is now being achieved. Thank you to Sheila Taylor for sharing the load by playing at these services.

Eric Tewsley

Mothers' Union Report

In 2005 we had 39 members, six of whom belong to the 'Indoor Members Prayer Circle'. In February Freda Ramell celebrated her 90th birthday. Daphne Bevis made her a special card and requested a birthday message for Freda, on Tim Daykin's Sunday morning programme 'Ancient & Modern'.

Our year began with our A.G.M. and Bring & Buy. Owen Neal came in February to tell us about 'The Story of Tunbridge Stickware'. At our next meeting The Reverend Sandy Phillips spoke to us about her 'Thoughts on Lent'. On March 1st we shared our findings about St David - a most enjoyable afternoon. The spring programme ended with a visit from Kathy Pitt who talked to us about 'The Shaw Trust'.

On 5th April we had a service in church led by the vicar, Revd. Paul Norton, followed by a Bring & Buy. The next meeting was our Jumble Sale, which raised a total of £210.27p. At the beginning of May, John Goodspeed gave us a talk with slides about 'Working with Wildlife around Portsdown'. At the next meeting Maggie gave the members a 'Floral Demonstration', and inspired us all with her creativity. Chris and Jo came on 7th June to tell us about the work of 'The Samaritans'. Thirty-five members and friends came on the MU outing to 'Stourbridge' on 21st June. The weather was warm and sunny and we all had a most enjoyable day. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't so kind to us for our MU Garden Party and we had to use the church hall instead of going to Brian and Sheila King's lovely garden. Nevertheless, members and guests said how much they had enjoyed the afternoon. At the last meeting before the summer break, The Reverend Max Millett, school chaplain, at St Luke's C of E School in Portsmouth, came to talk to us about his work at the school.

The autumn programme began with a service in church led by Cynthia Whittle. Ian Limb came to our next meeting and gave a talk with slides about 'Portsmouth Water Past & Present'. 'Hearing God's Call', was the title the Revd. Sandy Phillips gave for her talk to members on 4th October. On 18th October we celebrated our Branch's 70th anniversary with a service in church, led by Cynthia Whittle, followed by a buffet lunch in the church hall. Members from other Branches in the Deanery joined us for this celebration. We held a 'Coffee Morning and Cake Stall', on Saturday 22nd October, in aid of branch funds. The event was very successful and raised £131.27p. In November, Dr Ivor Grayson-Smith talked to us about 'The Last Journey of St. Paul, and on 15th November Godfrey Joly came and told us about some of his wartime experiences between 1939-1945. Our last meeting in 2005 was our Carol Service and Christmas Tea held in the church hall, a very happy occasion on which to end the year.

Members attended various Deanery and Diocesan services and events during the year. We had a very busy day preparing and serving refreshments at the Parish Fete in July. We continue to provide 'happy bags' for the younger church members and to send 1st anniversary Baptism cards and also wedding cards to couples marrying at Christ Church.

The committee would like to thank everyone, especially our MU members, for all their support, prayers and for the encouragement they have given throughout the year.

MU Committee

Junior Church

It seems hard to believe that this time last year we were all involved in the Bible Reading Marathon, and it was a great time of fellowship and inspiration.

Sally Carter left us at Easter to concentrate on work and family commitments and I found myself taking over as team leader. In the Easter holidays we took an "outing" inside to visit Playzone so that we did not need to worry about the weather. A good time was had by all. The children keep in touch with Isobel Booth-Clibborn and her daughter Shiisa by newsletter, and although we do not reply as often as we would like, we were delighted to have the chance to meet them both here in April. Junior Church made a scrapbook of letters, pictures and photographs which we presented to Shiisa as a memento of her visit. For the summer fete, we changed our traditional tinbola to a soft toy pick-a-straw. We collected a fine number of toys and had a lot of fun getting ready for that. Our summer picnic took us to Queen Elizabeth Country Park and although many were on holiday, those that came enjoyed good weather and a happy time.

We have extended our decorations in church and, as well as the Easter banners, we have made others to welcome guests to the family service and for harvest and Christmas. The children continue to write and read prayers for the family service and sometimes we lead the service with all the children making their contribution. Our Christmas nativity service told the story of St. Nicholas and involved all Santa's helpers collecting toys and gifts in the Toy Service finishing with "the greatest gift of all", the Nativity scene and a real baptism. Our Christmas party was an innovation, with an early start for a mammoth party breakfast followed by more traditional fun and games until it was time to go home.

The youngest and middle groups are still just a select few, but we were pleased to welcome three new members to our number in the Autumn term and hope they will continue to visit when they can. Finally, we have really missed the leadership of Paul and the support of Alison, and we pray for Paul's recovery and their return as soon as they are able.

Jackie Quinn

YOOF 2

The youth of our congregation have continued to involve themselves with the YOOF 2 group over the last 12 months. The format is usually that the meeting takes place most months on one Sunday

evening at the house of one of the members and food and drink is provided. There has also been the opportunity to go to a restaurant, cinema and ice skating. Alison Norton has played a significant part in developing a theme at each event and our thanks goes out to her and all the parents who have hosted the event during the last 12 months. For those parents who have yet to host or where the event was cancelled, do not worry - the Yoof 2 group will be making an appearance at your house soon!!

Sebastian Olway

The Hall of Sound

Once a month, in the Church, for a few hours, a group of young people meet up to do what they like best - play music. The wide range and styles of music is ever increasing and expanding and caters for most genres to please everyone. We have already played one live set at the music and dance evening in 2005 which went down very well and are hoping for a few more this year. The instruments played cover everything from electric guitar to keyboard and bass to drums. The ability and talent of the musicians grows every time we meet and we keep learning new things and are getting better and better. There are snacks provided and the friendly atmosphere keeps everyone happy. If anyone would like to join in you are most welcome to come up, play your instrument, learn an instrument or just chill out and listen to some cool music.

Seb Olway

Christ Church Toddlers

I am a member of Cosham Baptist Church and a registered child minder. In September 2005 I took over the running of the Wednesday toddler group, membership of which had been falling and there had been a real threat of closure. Melanie Jeffrey looks after the banking and pays the rent for the hall and any other bills. I am happy to report that our numbers have been rising steadily and we now have a regular attendance figure of 25.

We provide a safe and welcoming environment for both children and adults alike. A variety of activities are provided for the children including craft, play dough, singing, dressing up, role play and there are toys to suit all ages. Refreshments are provided for everyone with the help of church members and we are extremely grateful to them. Sandy drops in regularly to say hello and chat with the parents. At Christmas she did a lovely service and we had a little Christmas party. Christ Church toddlers is going from strength to strength and is becoming very popular. Long may it continue.

Mandy Kind

Evening Wives' Fellowship

There are about 25 members in the group and we meet in various homes once a month. We have a range of excellent speakers and we sometimes have a quiz night. Last year we had talks about the Blue Reef Aquarium and Portsmouth Water Company; Cynthia Whittle gave us an insight into the history and building of the Tabernacle, our summer sessions were a talk about Mars (the chocolate factory not the planet!); learning to lip read, a garden visit and our annual outing was a visit to Jane Austen's house at Chawton. Our autumn term started with our AGM, we had a talk about fair trade with sale of fair trade goods and a poetry evening by June Nelson-Thompson. We ended the year with mulled wine, mince pies and carols led by David Letters.

Maggie Harris

Scripture Union

We were all very sad to say goodbye to Terry at the New Road Christian book shop after so many years of his cheerful service. The result is that this year the Bible Reading notes have been obtained direct from SU, who unfortunately are not able to offer a discount for bulk purchases.

This has not deterred the faithful and our numbers remain approximately the same, having lost and gained subscribers in equal measure.

We gain our spiritual nourishment through regular use of the Bible and prayer. SU produce a variety of resources to help us in our individual and group studies. Some of us at Christ Church take "Daily Bread" which helps us to explore, understand and enjoy the Bible. Others take "Encounter with God". This provides a systematic and thought-provoking approach to Bible reading. "Closer to God" is for anyone who longs to hear God's voice in today's noisy world.

When you mention Bible study in some circles, you find that suddenly people have got something else they need to do, or they change the subject. That is possibly because they have yet to experience God speaking through his word in a dynamic, engaging and challenging way. If you need help (and a lot of us do) in your Bible reading then SU notes are a must!

Pauline Metcalfe

Flower Stewards

The services of the "flower ladies" were in great demand again this year as many weddings took place through the summer months. We are a group of keen amateurs who enjoy arranging flowers, especially at weddings, and we try our very best to carry out the individual requirements of these couples for their special day.

We are very grateful to all those kind people who have supported us so generously throughout the year, especially at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, when the church is decorated to the glory of God for these special festivals of praise and celebration.

Special thanks go to Maggie Harris for her leadership and guidance over the past year despite her ill health and to all the stalwart and reliable monthly flower stewards who work so hard to make our church look wonderful every week. To the, and also to everybody else who willingly volunteers to arrange flowers when required and especially for your efforts for the festivals throughout the Christian year our grateful thanks.

Jenny Whiteside and Ros Molloy

"Rusty Cutters"

The year began with a visit from the Bailey Bros, a giant shredder to clear the churchyard spoil heap - the result of a full year of hedge cuttings. Thank you to all those who were able to help on the day. We are pleased to report that in addition to our usual volunteers we have been joined by Toby Olway, working with his father at weekends, using his own strimmer. He has produced an excellent result. We are very appreciative of the efforts of all our volunteers; Roy, Eric, Brian, Peter and Penny. P.S. always room for more!

Finally we feel that we should report that at least two of the large pine trees in the churchyard appear to be dying, probably due to the dry summer. If this is the case they may have to be felled.

Colin Dove

Christ Church website

The parish website has continued to grow and develop during 2005 with an increase in the information available and people using the site.

In June 2005 I took the Webmaster role over from Graham Olway so that Graham could concentrate on other work within the Parish. I would like to thank Graham for all his hard work and contribution to the website. 2005 saw a refresh of the site with a change in style and layout. The style and titles used on the site better match the style and titles on both the Church of England and Diocesan web sites. The key to a successful web site is ease of use and up to date information. In order to ensure accurate and up to date information work was started to get ownership of all the web pages assigned to the person who has responsibility for the topic in the parish.

In January 2006 the initial structure, website layout and proposals were presented to the PCC. Work to finalise this effort is going on and should be presented back to the PCC shortly.

During 2005 we have seen a steady increase in use of the website with users from across the globe looking at the information. In September a lady from Sydney, Australia, who had found details of a relative on the list of graves, contacted me and I was able to mail pictures of the gravestone back to her.

During 2005 a number of new items were posted:

- The "on-line" magazine - copies of the Portsdown Post going back to January 2005 are now available on the website.
- On-line rota - the list of who is doing what each week for our parish - preachers, readers, prayers, sidespeople and so on.
- Updated and refreshed parish project pages
- Donations button to make an instant donation to the parish

Late in 2005 our service provider implemented a new statistics package, which provides a much better view of what is happening on the site. We can now see better information on the most popular pages and better information on how many people are "hitting" the site. This will allow us to "tune" the site to better meet everyone's needs.

Are you thinking of getting Broadband - click the advert on the bottom of our web home page and sign up - We get 50p a month off the parish broadband line for every person who signs up by this method.

I look forward to 2006 being an even better year for the site with many more people using it to find out about the parish and what's going on.

Nigel Wheatley - Webmaster

Sanctuary Guild - Church Cleaning (Mops and dusters brigade)

We have a group of six helpers at the moments: Joan Rooke and Anya Downie clean the brass while the rest of us wield booms and dusters, empty waste bins and sort out the dustbins. Joan Lowe had to leave us due to health problems and Molly Scarth also laid down her broom. We would like to thank all the ladies for their hard work in keeping the church clean. Beatrix Beaden (known as Bebe) and Wendy Mansbridge have joined our happy band. Ros Molloy and I would welcome anyone wishing to chase a few cobwebs. We meet on Wednesday mornings after 10.30.

Ann Dove

Portsdown Post

When Alison Norton unfortunately had to withdraw from the post as editor, we were (and are) grateful to Nigel Wheatley for kindly stepping in.

We are currently printing 370 copies each month, most of which are distributed to individual homes. Thank you to Ros Molloy for organising this and to all those who so faithfully help with this important aspect of our work.

Unfortunately we have had to raise the price of each edition to keep in line with publishing costs but we hope that our readers still find their monthly copies worth the additional expense.

SIDESMAN'S REPORT

I would like to thank all the sidespersons for their unfailing support and co-operation, especially when I ring at the last minute and ask them to step in unexpectedly! We have a very loyal team whose friendly faces and warm smiles of greeting make everyone who comes into church feel

welcome. I would also like to say thank you to all the people who, for personal reasons have had to come off of the rota this year, and of course a fond farewell to Colin Eyres who was a loyal servant for many years. Those on the rota at present are as follows:-Philip Aspey, June Ames, Molly Ayling, Linda and Roger Banks, Pat Cole, Anne & Colin Dove, Rita Drake, Maureen Entiknapp, Sheila and Peter Gill, Harry Horne, Sheila and Brian King, Pauline Letters, Brian Mansbridge, Pauline and Roger Metcalfe, John Partridge, Harry Rooke, Andrew Silk, Ann Davies and David Davis have offered to help out if needed.

Judy Scott

Mission Support Committee

The Mission Support Committee were pleased with the superb cooperation from members and parishioners in maintaining our overseas and local missionary outreach during 2005. Contact with link mission partners was maintained by correspondence and we received many appreciative letters, including from Romania, Ghana, India, Nepal and Uganda.

We are grateful to the Lord that specific offerings to mission last year reached £5923 when we include the £1521 for the Bishops, Tsunami, Niger and Kashmir emergency funds, and £225 for the "Send a Cow, not a Card" initiative. This *excludes* the £5676 raised during the Bible Marathon which, with Open Church, were an important component of mission in the local community. During these, over 250 items of free literature were distributed to visitors.

The following table summarises (to the nearest £1) the tremendous record of significant giving in order to support a wide range of causes during the year .

Mission Agencies	PCC	Collected	Notes	Total
Barnabas Fund	£100	Na		£100
Bible Society	£100	nil	Covers free literature	£100
Children's Society	Na	Candlelit S. £307	Christingle £177	£484
Christian Aid	£250	£2310	Mostly door-to-door	£2560
Church Mission Society	£500	£297	Include £245 CMS boxes	£797
Isobel Booth-Clibborn	£100	Na	Include £100 from 2004	£200
Hellen Ogwal	£100	£118		£218
Koforidua (IDWAL link)	£200	Na	£200 in hand for the link	nil
Leprosy Mission	£100	£85		£185
Lifewords (formerly SGM)	£100	Na	Covers free literature	£100
Mission Aviation Fellowship	Na	Na	New for 2006	Nil
Mission to Seafarers	£100	£40	Plus knitted garments	£140
Roberts Centre & Two Saints			Gifts in kind - clothing, harvest, toiletries, toys	Nil
Royal British Legion	£34	£145	(includes poppy wreath)	£179
Scripture Union	£200	£61		£261
Send A Cow to Lesotho	Na	£225		£225
Simeons Trustees	£150	Na		£150
TEAR Fund	£300	£524	Include £484 Lent lunch	£824
Fair Trade Stall	Na	na	Self-financing	Nil
Widley Youth Project	Defer	Na	£1000 short-fall	Nil
Zulu Welfare Association	Na	£77		£77
Emergency collections	£200	£1521	Tsunami, Niger, Kashmir	£1721
Parish mission	Na	£36	Covered bank transfers	£36
TOTAL	£2534	£5923		£8297

*The above figures do not include Gift Aid where this is appropriate.

The committee met 5 times in 2005 and reaffirmed its function to provide support to specifically Christian partners and agencies (rather than bodies that others may help) while encouraging a positive attitude to mission in the community. The experiment of a quarterly focus on freewill offerings for the parish project was *not* a success, so was discontinued; constraints reduced the PCC mission tithe to £2534, so the Widley Youth Project suffered. It was decided to include the Bible Society and the Mission Aviation Fellowship in the 2006 programme. Once a year, each member produces a magazine insert, a poster display and some prayer topics for their "mission of the month". They contributed the notes about the mission societies which follow in this report and hope that every church member will take at least one of these causes to heart.

Barnabas Fund (Trevor Filtness)

This is a mission which supports the "suffering church" particularly in non-Christian lands of North Africa and the Middle East, including Israel and Iraq. They covet our prayers for the Christian witness in these difficult environments.

Bible Society (Patrick Whittle)

Where would we be without the Bible Society, printing and distributing the word of God? Our contribution covered the cost of the excellent booklets of Bible texts distributed at our Bible Marathon and helped support the indigenous Bible societies work around the world.

Children's Society (Anne Dove)

The Candlelit Supper and Christingle continue to be a popular focus for the work of the Children's Society for adults in January and for children and their parents in December. Sadly, there are still many children in need in our own country who depend on our support.

Christian Aid (Rosemary Nisbet)

Imagine life without water ? Over a billion people worldwide do not have access to water. Christian Aid provides for needy societies throughout the world, and where possible its aid is channelled through the local Christian churches and organisations. It is a privilege to deliver and collect envelopes in Christian Aid week because most people are welcoming and grateful to contribute to this well advertised campaign every May. This year volunteers were fewer than usual which became rather burdensome and a few homes were missed, yet we still gave over £2500 towards the national total of £15 million. Jack Nisbet willingly completed the onerous task of counting and banking all the cash. Well done everyone!

Church Mission Society (Karen & Stuart Davies, Cynthia Whittle)

We continue to support our informal link with Rev Hellen Ogwal and family in northern Uganda. Our official CMS link mission partner, Isobel Booth-Clibborn, came in April, and gave riveting talks about her work with VIVA for needy children in Africa. Shiisa, her little daughter, came too and filled in gaps with some apt comments about their life in Uganda. Christ Church has always been a CMS parish (much appreciated by the Whittles in their time overseas) and CMS now relies on people like us to read "Yes" magazine, use the CMS prayer paper, and help support the move of its headquarters from London to Oxford.

Koforidua, St Peter's Cathedral (Linda & Roger Banks)

Our IDWAL link with St. Peters was consolidated when six of our members visited Ghana. Perhaps by the time our church project has been completed, we will be in as position to bring one of their PCC over to visit Christ Church and join with us in our celebrations. There is a Koforidua fund and contributions are always welcome.

Leprosy Mission (Molly Ayling)

Jesus cured leprosy and it is the ambitious aim of The Leprosy Mission to eradicate this disease completely from the whole world, a tall order for the workers representing us.

TLM gives hope and renewed life to leprosy sufferers through education, rehabilitation, medication, surgery, physiotherapy and loving Christian care.

Lifewords (Patrick Whittle)

The Scripture Gift Mission have been supplying us with free Christian literature which is available to visitors to the church and functions like the summer fete and advent fair.

SGM is now called Lifewords. Our contribution helps towards the cost of their materials.

Mission to Seafarers

This Anglican ministry to seafarers gives spiritual and practical support to seafarers of all nationalities and faiths in 200 ports around the world, helping keep in touch with families.

Some members of the congregation also knit woolly hats and scarves which are much appreciated by the Southampton Seafarers Centre, working ecumenically on behalf of the Apostleship of the Sea, British & International Seafarers Society and Mission to Seafarers.

Roberts Centre and Two Saints (Margaret Baggs)

These two local Christian agencies support and assist people in need in our community.

The Roberts Centre is a family help centre in Somerstown while Two Saints is a centre for homeless men near St. Mary's hospital. Our help is mainly in the form of clothing and bedding that become available during the year along with a good proportion of the gifts of food, toiletries and toys which are donated at our Harvest Festival and Toy Service.

Scripture Union (Pauline Metcalfe)

The members of our congregation and junior church who use SU daily Bible reading notes and learning materials find these invaluable aids towards an effective Christian life. But SU

has a much wider ministry - remember our Holiday Club ? With a record number of beach mission, house parties and holiday activities, they need our prayers and support in 2006.

Simeon's Trustees

We support the Simeon's Trustees who hold the patronage of our parish and who are responsible for maintaining sound ministry at both Christ Church Portsdown and our daughter parish of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn.

TEAR Fund (Pat Hatchard)

In 2005 over £500 came in for TEAR Fund, mainly from Lent lunches and Harvest Supper. This is a highly respected Christian agency because it is seen to clearly carry on Jesus' aim to "bring good news to the poor" working through Christian partners in other countries. The principal objectives of The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund are : to relieve poverty, suffering and distress and to prevent ill health among people of the world while promoting Christian education and evangelism. TEAR fund received £24 million to help victims of the Tsunami disaster, jointly from supporters and the Disaster Committee, but it continues much lower profile work among refugees in places like Nepal and Sudan.

Fair Trade (Gill Cross)

Our stall of Fair Trade goods has done well during the year (turnover exceeding £1900) and every purchase helps some needy farmer or trader in the developing world. It is also part of our witness for Trade Justice and encourages people to shop for Fair Trade items.

Widley Youth Project (Paul Norton/Patrick Whittle)

In 2005 we were unable to give financial support to this joint project between Portsdown, Purbrook and Hampshire County Council for two unattached youth workers working with teenagers in the London Road area. Volunteer youth workers are being trained, and there are plans to establish a youth facility on some land to the north of Purbrook Heath Road.

Non-stop Bible Reading Marathon

From 13th to 17th March, 2005 our church was open day and night for this unusual event that was initiated jointly by the project fund-raising and mission support groups. Many people from nearby churches and schools gave support, and others were praying for us. There were a total of 200 visitors to the church during the week. The intangible benefits and the atmosphere were highlights - people appreciated getting to grips with scripture and hearing passages of history and some fascinating prophecies. Here are some of the quotes from people during the event : "It was an amazing experience" "It gives you a much better perspective on biblical history to read several chapters". "That's just what is happening in the Middle East NOW....." "It brought the Bible alive".....

Genesis took 3.75 hours to read, the Psalms 5 hours 5 minutes; other long books were Jeremiah, Lamentations and Daniel. The shortest books were Obadiah and Jonah. The time we took to read the whole Bible was 77 hours 35 minutes, possibly a world record ! The total cash raised for project funds was £5676 so that with gift aid we are over £7000.

It was a most worthwhile occasion and we would like to thank all those who took part or supported the event. We have much for which to praise the Lord during that week.

Pauline Metcalfe and Patrick Whittle

Men's Breakfast Summary for 2005.

Eight breakfasts have been held during the year, at six weekly intervals, with a break in August for the holidays. The attendance has remained good throughout the year and we have maintained an average of 18 men attending each breakfast. We have welcomed several new "Early Birds" and hope this trend continues. Our speakers have been various, all the topics were interesting and enjoyed by the listeners. Several times no speaker has been available, but there is no lack of conversation around the breakfast table. We are always looking for speakers, so if you feel you could talk for ten to fifteen minutes on a subject of your choice, a hobby, special interest or holiday, please have a word with me. Again, this year the success of the breakfasts has been due to the dedicated team of ladies who buy, prepare and cook the food for us, and wash up afterwards! Being typical men I am sure we do not show our appreciation enough, but can I offer all our thanks now to the ladies for all their efforts made for us over the last year. As the breakfasts still seem to be popular, a further eight are planned for 2006. the year's dates are on the church website. Normal invitations will be sent out three or four weeks in advance. If you would like to come but have not received an invitation, there are always spare ones left at the back of the church.

Pat Cole

The Parish Holiday - a KAIROS experience

21 adults and 8 children from our parish enjoyed an excellent week's holiday in July, 2005 at Winchester House, Sandown, Isle of Wight, now managed by the YMCA. We could have had some sunnier weather but it did not prevent relaxation, unwinding and exploration. As Christ Church was the main group, we maintained 'traditions' of our previous visits with Grace at meals; a short service in Chapel before breakfast and a brief evening Epilogue in the lounge. Activities organised by Stuart Davies and Roger Banks included a final evening concert, while Patrick Whittle's 'breakfast puzzles' attracted keen competition. The 'grown-up' children were exemplary in their contributions to the week, being role models for the younger ones. On Sunday our group went to Newport churches or Christ Church Sandown, whilst the folk from Woolston and Hamble used the Chapel.

People from eight different churches and two dioceses all got on well together and a true KAIROS spirit pertained by the end of the week. There were many blessings from opportunities to care and share and make new friends and several people, young and old, progressed - physically, mentally or spiritually.

Cynthia Whittle

Worship Group

Members:

Trevor Filtness (Chair - now retired from the committee), Ann Davis (Deputy Chair), Cynthia Whittle, Maggie Harris, Judy Scott, Sheila Taylor, Ismay Doughty, Nicola Olway, Eric Tewsley. Ex Officio: Vicar & Church Wardens.

Hymn Choosing Sub Groups (alternate for monthly selections):

1. Trevor Filtness (lead), Sheila Taylor, Nicola Olway, Ann Davis
2. Cynthia Whittle (lead), Ismay Doughty, Maggie Harris, Judy Scott.
3. Eric and the Vicar normally attend.

Junior Church Adult Rep: Nicola Olway, **Music Group Rep:** Eric Tewsley, **M.U & Flower Group Rep:** Maggie Harris, **Lesson Reading Roster** Judy Scott, **Prayer Roster:** Ann Davis, **Organist Roster:** Eric Tewsley

General. The WG held 2 meetings in 2005. Summary of milestones and activities:

- a. The Worship Group has been affected by 2 events this year. Firstly Trevor Filtness had to withdraw from many activities at Christ Church in order to focus on the selection process for ordination and secondly the Vicar's illness has naturally led to members of this Group undertaking more duties leaving little space for WG meetings. As a practical measure, to support hymn selection, the hymn choosing teams were merged under Cynthia Whittle's leadership and have quietly 'got on with the job'. They are owed a special vote of thanks.
 - b. **Worship Issues Considered** (full details in the minutes of meetings):
 - Length of services - some felt that the duration of some services was increasing. This is a difficult area but the point was noted. A balance must be maintained
 - How the 'Peace' was shared. It was reported that the Peace was at times perhaps (words chosen with care!) a melee! Measures have introduced by those leading worship to ensure that the Peace is honoured fully. We hope that this has been noticed.
 - One of the major topics considered was interim re-ordering to pave the way for the main re-ordering project. This would, for example, introduce a new Table by the Choir Stalls and a variety of other measures. While the WG considered these measures as welcome and feasible, they asked the PCC to consider any interim changes within a context that the focus should remain on the main project so that funds and effort were not diverted, particularly as the Project was likely to begin delivering within 18 months or so. Thus interim changes would introduce unwelcome complexity.
 - The lack of Sacristans was noted and raised by the WG to the PCC. The WG undertook to ask for volunteers.
-

Guiding at Christ Church

All units have had a very busy year in 2005. The new revised programme for girls 5 to 7 years as been enjoyed by the Rainbow unit. 'The Rainbow Jigsaw' has four core themes; look, learn, laugh and

love. This has given the girls new topics to learn about and badges to work towards. With the new programme came a new Rainbow uniform which most of our Rainbows are now wearing. Other Rainbow activities this year have included; Getting to know each other, music from other countries, cooking (this was especially popular), games (including indoor Football practice) and craft work.

The Brownies, for girls aged 7 to 10 years have also spent this year exploring new activities in the unit. In April, Brown Owl got married and all the girls were invited to the ceremony at Christ Church. A guard of honour was given to the happy couple as they left the Church. The girls have also spent a day at Intech in Winchester, and another at Butlins, they have held a sponsored sing for children with leukaemia raising £270, and enjoyed taking part in craft and badge work.

A theme for this years Guide programme has been 'Enjoying and achieving'. For girls aged 10-14 years there are more opportunities for them to shape and develop their own programme within the unit. In April we took part in the district netball tournament, which enabled us to meet with other units in the district. In the summer we went to Meonwood, near Wickham for our annual camp. It was one of the wettest weeks of the summer holidays, with sunshine on the day we went home! During the summer we also worked on the painting and decorating of our new HQ. We felt it was important for the girls to have ownership of their new building and therefore spent sessions supervising their painting skills as well as the leaders undertaking painting and decorating tasks! We have also worked on various projects that have linked to the Community, both at home and abroad. As well as our own fundraising efforts for the new HQ, we provided six shoeboxes for the Shoebox appeal, which were sent to children in third world countries, and also helped with the preparation of decorations for the Harvest Festival in the Church and Christingles for the service in December.

In October a dozen Guides travelled to Birmingham to attend a national guiding event - 'The Big Gig'. This was a fantastic experience, with 50,000 other Brownies and Guides at the NEC.

Recently the Rangers (for Girls 14 plus) have been following the Look Wider programme, working towards their Creativity and Fit for life octants. This octant has incorporated aqua aerobics classes, healthy eating, and looking after yourself evenings. All these activities are planned by the young women themselves. Within the creativity octant, the group has experimented with food recipes, Xmas crafts and cards. Looking ahead the Rangers plans are underway to take part in a boxercise class, a formal dinner at a restaurant and a fruit smoothie and relaxation evening.

In September we met up with an ex-Portsmouth Brownie from fifty years ago! She has sent us some wonderful photographs from her time as a Brownie at Christ Church. In May 2006 we hope to meet up with her again as she has kindly offered to donate her old Brownies badges which we hope to put with our Guiding memorabilia. 2005 ended with a Brownie and Guide joint trip to the pantomime. This was an excellent production, and all the girls were a pleasure to take.

We were very grateful to the Church Wardens and Cynthia for the use the Church for our meetings from September until our building was ready for use. It certainly made each week a challenge in terms of preparing activities that would fit within the Church space.

We have been touched by the support given to the Guiding programme and help with our fundraising efforts this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has offered time

and commitment to help us achieve our goals, enabling girls and young women in Widley - to 'enjoy and achieve' within the Guiding Movement.

Maria Calway-Kennedy Guider

Scout Group Report

It has been a very active, exciting and challenging year for all of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and leaders of our group. All sections implemented engaging and dynamic programmes, enjoyed by 60+ members. There have been camps, hikes, sleepovers, sports, games and other activities.

This year has seen two extremely significant events for the group. In April we celebrated our 75th anniversary and our celebration was attended by members old and new. They enjoyed a very well presented exhibition of history and memorabilia, plus refreshments and a birthday cake. Each member of the group was presented with a special anniversary badge.

On 1st November the Beaver Colony became the first section to use the new HQ. Following eight long years of planning, fundraising, negotiations and building, the dream at last became a reality. The feelings that once again we had a home to call our own; an invaluable, purpose built facility, independence and identity are indescribable. The official opening on 10th December was almost eight years to the day after the horrific fire that destroyed our old, much loved, wooden hut. The leaders and members of the group are extremely grateful to the church for their support over the last eight years when we were without a home. Also a thank you to the scout and guide support assc. For all their efforts in fundraising and building the new hut. At a time when we have been celebrating our 75th anniversary it is reassuring that we can also look ahead with confidence and enthusiasm.

Elaine Isaac Scout in Charge: 72nd Portsmouth (1st Portsdown) Scout Group

Beaver Colony Report

The boys have enjoyed a variety of experience on a Tuesday evening, including handicrafts, making games, cooking, badge work, a night hike, as well as sharing fun and friends. Many of our Beavers achieved their Outdoor Challenge badge as well as their Creative, Explorer, Experiment, My Faith, Swimmers and Animal Friend activity badges and most of the Colony are well on the way to achieving their Friendship Challenge. We also joined the Cub Pack in a visit to the pantomime at the Kings, had a picnic at Queen Elizabeth Forest and enjoyed an exciting day on the rides at Paulton's Park. A few members of the Colony have attended Church Parade. They did particularly well at the Remembrance service and brought gifts for Harvest. Some also attended the Christingle service. As usual the Colony has taken an active role in the Beaver District events. This year has seen the amalgamation of the Portsmouth district into the new "City of Portsmouth" as well as a different badge, this provides the Beavers with an opportunity to experience activities with a greater number of colonies. Beavers enjoyed the Bumper Beaver evening where they met other Beavers for fun and games and some took part in the arena events at the summer fete.

As part of the 75th anniversary, the Beavers joined the other sections for a Group Activity day at Woodend, where they went on a hike with cubs and scouts; made kites and joined in games and competitions. The day ended with a BBQ and campfire for members and families.

We were excited to be the first Group to use the new hut on 1st November, following so much hard work by so many.

We are looking forward to enjoying next year and if you can spare an hour on a Tuesday evening, please let me know.

Elaine Isaac - Ahmeek. 72nd Portsmouth Beaver Scout Troup

Cub Report

We have enjoyed a variety of activities, including kite making, origami, cooking, swimming and more traditional scouting skills such as night hikes, sleepovers, pioneering, map work, tracking, and of course knots. We visited the pantomime at the Kings theatre; hiked around Farlington Marshes and in the local area; went ice-skating and swimming; caught the train to London and saw the sights and the natural history and science museums; and visited the royal navy's escape training dive take at Gosport. This later was thanks to the generosity of one of the parents.

The creation of the new "City of Portsmouth" district has given us new opportunities to join in district events. One of our group achieved 4th place in the first Cub Activity Hike and we did well in the chess and draughts competition with one of our cubs winning the chess plate competition. We also put in a team for the conker event. Our 6-a-side football team did well, especially as it was their first match in the competition. Some of our cubs took part in the arena events at the City of Portsmouth summer fete and achieved joint second place.

As part of the 75th anniversary the cubs joined the other sections for an activity day at Woodend, where they were able to go on a "scavenger hike" with beavers and scouts as well as making kites, playing team games and competitions. The BBQ and campfire was enjoyed by all.

Last years cub camp took place at Lyons Copse, shedfield. We combined the usual scouting activities with a tournament which included sewing and raft building.

Cubs have earned the following badges: creative challenge, caring challenge, outdoor challenge and the global challenge. Activity badges include: adventure, artist, athlete, book reader, communicator, entertainers, musician stage 1, my faith, nights away, personal safety, physical recreation, road safety, sport's enthusiast, swimmers stage 1&2.

We have also been able to award three Chief Scout Silver Awards.

Elaine Isaac - Akele

Judy White - Kaa - 72nd Portsmouth Cub Scout Pack

Havant Deanery Synod Activities During 2005

1. During the early part of the year, elections were held for Deanery Synod and General Synod posts

2. In the second half of the year the Parish Share allocations were agreed for 2006. For Christchurch this results in an increase of under three percent.

3. During the year a number of KAIROS subjects were debated and agreed:

The KAIROS Cluster Plans were approved. Our cluster was commended on the quality of the proposed plans.

The Deanery Synod members were briefed on the proposed KAIROS Diocesan Central Structural changes, which are going through exploration and reflection at the moment before the agreement phase is reached

The KAIROS Stipendiary Clergy Deployment Plan for the Deanery was agreed. In summary the plan is as follows:

Short Term Plan 2006 -Incumbents to be appointed to the vacancies at Crookhorn and Denmead

Medium Term Plan 2006 - 2010

Parishes will explore and develop ways of working together within three 'Partnerships'

Northern: Blendworth w Charlton w Idsworth, Catherington & Clanfield, Hart Plain, Cowplain

Central: Denmead, Waterloooville, Purbrook, Crookhorn, Portsdown, Waterloooville MDA

Southern: Rowlands Castle, Leigh Park & Warren Park, West Leigh, Havant, Bedhampton, Warblington & Emsworth, Hayling North w Eastoke, Hayling South

When the second post in Catherington and Clanfield becomes vacant this post will be surrendered.

When a stipendiary post on Hayling Island becomes vacant Hayling will become one benefice with 1.5 stipendiary posts for three parishes

Long Term Plan 2010 - 2015

The Central Partnership will continue to work together developing appropriate patterns of mission and ministry for the area and the MDA with a view to saving a stipendiary post by 2015

Christchurch Deanery Synod Representatives

Andy Minchin and Ros Molloy