

Christ Church Portsdown  
Parish Year Book



March 2007

CHRIST CHURCH PORTSDOWN

CHURCH OFFICERS

MAR 2006 - MAR 2007

VICAR

Revd P. NORTON ( Chair PCC )

CHURCH WARDENS

R. FILTNESS ( Vice Chair )  
S. FISHER

HON TREASURER

B. MANSBRIDGE

PCC SECRETARY

A. DOVE

PCC MEMBERS

P. ASPEY  
P. COLE  
I. DOUGHTY  
P. HATCHARD  
P. METCALFE  
G. OLWAY  
J. QUINN  
C. WHITTLE  
P. WHITTLE

*DEANERY SYNOD  
REPRESENTATIVES*

( R. MOLLOY  
( A. MINCHIN

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2007.  
To be held at Christ Church on Thursday 22nd March 2007

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of church wardens
4. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 2006
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 2006
  - b. To appoint the independent examiner
  - c. Appraisal of current financial situation
9. Election to Parochial Church Council (4 representatives).
10. Date of the first meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council
11. Election of Sidespersons
12. Chairman's remarks.
13. Any other business previously notified to the chair
14. Website presentation by Nigel Wheatley
15. Closing Prayer

Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Council held in the Church on Thursday  
29th March 2006

The Chair was taken by the Reverend Paul Norton.

1. READING from Hebrews chapter 12 V.1 'let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.' Followed by prayers.

2. APOLOGIES ; were received from Ann & David Davies, Sheila & Reg Taylor, Margaret & Martin Baggs, Jenny Whiteside, Joan & Harry Rooke, Maureen & John Enticknap, Eric & June Tewsley, Rosemary Mitchell, Pat Hatchard, Brenda & John Hadley, Trevor Filtness, Nikki Marriott, Peggy Charlesworth, Emma Dove, Melanie and Richard Brown, Nicola Olway, Michael Drake, Joy West, Maggie Harris, Gill Cross. Peter Gill.

3. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

Rosemary Filtness and Sylvia Fisher were re-elected. The Vicar thanked them for their work during a difficult and challenging year.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2005 APCM. Sylvia Fisher was unanimously elected warden at the Adjourned Vestry meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup>. April 2005 - Proposed by Patrick Whittle seconded by Gill Cross. The minutes were received and signed as a correct representation of last year's proceedings.

5. MATTERS ARISING - There were none

6. THE ELECTORAL ROLL - In her report Jenny Whiteside, the Electoral Roll Officer, stated that the number at present on roll stands at 176. Of these 93 live outside the parish and 83 live within the parish boundary. The number of people on the Electoral Roll is small in comparison with the number of active members of our congregation and we would ask any who are not yet on the Roll to complete an application form and hand it to any of the Church wardens or sidespersons on duty. Our thanks to Jenny Whiteside for her work on the electoral roll, and we pray that she may continue with this work.

7. THE PARISH YEAR BOOK:- Rev. Paul Norton thanked Keith Fisher, Gill Cross and Brian Mansbridge for their work in putting together the Parish Year Book - and to all those who submitted reports. Proposed by Colin Dove and seconded by Sheila Gill unanimously agreed.

(a) Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council. The committees focus had to turn

to the business of running the Church in the absence of the Vicar. The retirement and change of the Wardens compounded the years' complications, not least of all through the formation of the new PCC following the March APCM and without the leadership and guidance normally afforded by a Vicar. (P.4& 5 of 21)

It was Proposed by Colin Dove, seconded by Sheila Gill carried unanimously.

(b) Goods, Fabric and Ornaments of the Church; p5 The Chairman thanked the Church wardens for their report. Acceptance of the reports was proposed by Ros Molloy seconded by Wendy Mansbridge and was carried unanimously.

( c )CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - A copy of the document is held by the Parish Administrator and is available for inspection. The PCC has appointed Fiona Wheatley as the representative for Child Protection and she will assist the PCC in making sure the policy is implemented within Christ Church, Portsdown. (P.6 of 21)

8. FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS - A significant change in the financial arrangements this year was the transfer of Portsdown Parish Centre Project finances to the PLT's financial director, David Davies. The day to day finances of Christ Church in 2005 have been a mix of plusses and minuses. The plusses were a 3% increase in giving together with a lottery grant to help with the Church Hall improvements. The minus has been a tailing off of income toward the end of the year, a reduction typically suffered in the absence of a Vicar. Added to this insurance claim excesses of £50 every time we have to make a claim due to vandalism inflicted on the Church windows Unless the trend of falling income is reversed for 2006 the increase in Parish Share and heating costs alone will become to big a financial hurdle

(a) To accept the examined accounts for 2005; That these accounts be adopted proposed by Pat Cole, seconded by Keith Fisher unanimously agreed

(b)To appoint an independent examiner; Roy West is to retire from this post - Paul Norton thanked Roy West and Brian Mansbridge for their meticulous work on the accounts and report.

There is now a vacancy to be filled for a independent examiner.

9. ELECTION OF THE P.C.C.

There are three vacancy's for PCC representatives. Alison Norton stood down last year, and Roger Banks finished his term of office.

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Jackie Quinn	Sylvia Fisher	Rosemary Filtness
Pauline Metcalfe	Patrick Whittle	Andy Minchin

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

#### 11. ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS

Judy Scott proposed that the following people be elected/re-elected as sidespersons

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 and 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. Proposed by Sheila Gill and seconded by Wendy Mansbridge.

#### 12. DEANERY SYNOD -. Election of two representatives.

Ros Molloy and Andy Minchin agreed to become deanery synod representatives.

#### 13. PORTSDOWN PARISH PROJECT;

An update on the proposed project was given by Sheila Gill and Andy Minchin. (p6 of 2006)

There is a need for a Leader for the PP team to replace Alison Norton, also someone to mastermind producing a brochure for fund raising. The appointment of a professional fund raiser to be employed.

Various workshops and open days are to be arranged. Three trustees to be named - Church Wardens and the Vicar. September 2007 could be the beginning of the building plan.

The vicar thanked Sheila Gill, Andy Minchin and Jim Molloy for their work on this project.

#### 14 VICARS REMARKS:.

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 moved forward rather than just being content to tread water. There have been greater demands on the ministry team ,church wardens, the standing committee and the PCC members. My Grateful thanks to them all for a sterling job throughout

I am looking forward to developments in the Kairos initiative and also in our own Portsmouth Parish Centre project enabling us to be' at the heart of the community' sharing in the life and love of God's kingdom in this place.

Cynthia & Patrick Whittle have stood down as Deanery Synod Representatives, they were thanked for their input and they were Presented with flowers and

book tokens. Revd. Sandy Phillips also had Flowers ,but was not present to accept them.

15. Any Other Business previously notified to the Chair; Parish Church Fete - Sid Way and his wife have taken on this task. They wish to hold a meeting with stall holders etc. and learn how to go about it, with help from various people. It was suggested that PCC members should be listed in the next year book.

The Meeting ended with prayers and the Grace at 9.10pm

## CHRIST CHURCH REPORTS

### Introduction and Church Wardens Report

The last twelve months have been somewhat of a challenging period for our church fellowship, dominated mainly by the long term absence of Paul, our vicar, due to clinical depression. Although he returned to us in March 2006 on light duties for 6 months following his doctor's instructions, unfortunately his depression returned and in September he was forced to go on long term sick leave again. This lack of spiritual leadership has had an impact on Christ Church; however we are extremely grateful to our Archdeacon, Trevor Reader, who has taken us under his wing and has been so supportive. The Church Wardens have not quite moved into his office - yet. At the time of writing Paul's sick leave has been extended to the end of March.

Paul's long term absence has meant a much greater workload for our Curate ,Sandy, and our Reader, Cynthia, who have run the majority of our services. We are very fortunate to have them, and on behalf of everyone in the Christ Church community the Church Wardens would like to thank them for all they do for us. We have had help from other clergy in the area, especially the 8am services. In particular we would like to thank Stuart Cleaver, Charles Keay and Ray Chapman, whose continued support and prayers mean so much to us.

The Parish project progressed well during the last twelve months, and some excellent workshops and the successful Parish Open Day served to make us all think about what the project is all about. The PCC commissioned a professional fund raising organisation to carry out a feasibility study to identify how and from where we could raise funds to help us pay for the project. Although the results of the study were disappointing, the report was very constructive and will be of valuable help to us when we start fund raising. Currently the project has been paused while we continue to try to resolve our lack of spiritual leadership; however we see that as being the next step in the project. We would like to thank the Project Leadership team for all their hard work and devotion to the project in what has been an eventful year for the project.

As always we are blessed by those selfless volunteers who perform so many countless tasks in order to keep our church in good repair and running smoothly. We would be lost without the sterling efforts of our Treasurer and his assistants, Parish Administrator and all who help in the office. Thanks are also due to Nigel Wheatley for editing our magazine and managing our web site, our Junior Church leaders and the willing teams of flower ladies, cleaners and polishers, Rusty Cutters, deputy wardens, sides people, coffee makers, singers and musicians.

Among our high points this year have been the Summer Fete and Advent Fair, the Lent lunches, Candlelit supper and the joyous Prom Praise concert and service, not to mention the recent Scouts Centenary celebration service. All these wonderful events demonstrate we are "at the heart of the community".

To say the least this has been a very challenging year for the Christ Church community. Your Church Wardens are very grateful for all the support you have shown us and we hope that we can continue to rely on you all in the coming year. God bless you.

**Rosemary Filtness and Sylvia Fisher Church Wardens**

### **Junior Church**

2006 saw the Junior Church continue to grow in numbers with as many as eight new names on the register. The ages of members range from 3 years up to eighteen. Our Easter craft workshop in April produced decorated eggs, Easter cards and each child cut out hand prints to combine to make our now traditional Easter banners. Every year is different and this year we chose the words of the hymn "Lord Jesus Christ" for our inspiration, with one scene for Good Friday and a contrasting one for Easter Sunday. In the school holidays we try to arrange a family outing and Playzone is a favourite venue for all ages until the weather gets warmer.

Patrick Whittle came to speak to us in May to introduce us to the work of the Mission Aviation Fellowship, which is a cause we wanted to support in the future. Children and adults alike enjoyed the talk which finished with us all making paper aeroplanes that were then taken into church to show the congregation. The usual format of our meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays is that we start together, then work in age related groups and go into church afterwards to receive communion or a blessing. There is then an opportunity to "show and tell" the children's work to the rest of the church.

One highlight of the year was when we let the children mix, cut, bake, and decorate plane-shaped biscuits to take across to church to raise money for the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Enthusiastic efforts by all were rewarded by an amazing amount of money.

We supported the summer fete by collecting teddies and soft toys for a "teddy tombola" stall. You had to pick a ticket and if it ended in a 00 or 05 then you could win the corresponding teddy or soft toy. The format resulted in many children spending all their pocket money in order to win their desired toy, which we didn't mind as it helped to raise money and gave lots of fun as well.

Alice Holt Woods was chosen as the venue for our summer family picnic when we spend time together to walk, talk, eat and relax in the countryside and luckily we were again blessed with good weather. Despite getting lost a few times, which

adds to the fun anyway, we all really enjoyed the fresh air and all too soon it was time to head for home.

We held a party style "All Saints Celebration" in November with cookery, quizzes and games to teach our members all about the history and work of the Saints. The children were fascinated by some of the stories and learned a lot as well so it proved to be a great success.

This year's Nativity and Toy Service used the overhead projector in church to lead an interactive word search as the basis to tell the traditional story. As we searched for each word in the story a member of the congregation could come up and mark it off on the word search. We finally found "THE WORD" which is God. Everyone got involved and enjoyed the unconventional format. Normally during the service, toys are collected by the children for the Roberts Centre to remember families less fortunate than their own and to serve as a reminder to the true spirit of Christmas.

So overall, 2006 has been an excellent year for Junior Church and all of its members. We have all learned a lot and gained from the experience and as new faces have quickly become new friends we are ready to face the challenges of another year.

**Jackie Quinn**

### **Report on Financial Stewardship and Gift Aid 2006**

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 98 parishioners who have given either direct by standing order or through our regular or occasional envelope schemes during 2006.

Based on the donations made in 2006, we have submitted claims to the Inland Revenue for £9,433. Although this is a significant element of income for the church, it does represent a slight (1%) decrease from the previous year. 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**

Every six years we are required to completely renew the electoral roll. There were 176 members on the old roll. Of these 48 did not reapply. Most of these were young couples who have married here over the past six years and moved on. Increased age has had some impact in that two or three older members from outside the parish are now attending churches closer to where they actually live and three very infirm members are now in care homes.

The new electoral roll now has 155 members, 71 from outside the parish boundary and 84 within the parish. This trend of half and half representation remains a feature at Christ Church. However, for the first time for many years, the number on roll within the parish has exceeded the number of those from outside the parish.

27 new applications were made and again, these were overwhelmingly from within the parish. These new members not previously on the old register are now included in the new total of 155 on our new 2007 electoral roll.

**Jenny Whiteside**

## Portsdown Parish Centre Project

The second year of the operation of the Project Leadership Team and the two working subgroups of: Design and Build and Fundraising has been a very busy and fruitful one in terms of getting the project to the point of being ready for detailed design and about ready for a Capital Appeal. Note: the project has been without a Communications working subgroup since the departure of Alison Norton from her position as Chairman; no one else has been prepared to take up this role. This has proved debilitating for the project. We have also of course missed the business skills and spiritual support of Trevor Filtness.

Encouraged by our project consultants - Lorica, the year began with many people, after seeing the development at the Holy Trinity Church in Gosport, excited about the proposed plans for Christ Church and better able to see how the reordered building might look. After much consultation reviewed plans were submitted and have subsequently been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. The focus of attention then became concentrated on A) fundraising and the feasibility of a Capital Appeal; B) developing potential partnerships to enable improved mission of the church in the community and C) consulting with external bodies i.e. English Heritage, the Victorian Society and the Council for the Care of Churches. All these bodies are now satisfied with our outline plans pending some detailed consideration.

In the course of the year significant milestones have been achieved but with the continuing ill health of the Vicar the lack of priestly leadership authority for the project has increasingly been felt, as indeed it has for the church as a whole. It became apparent that the environment was not yet right for launching a Capital Appeal for funds.

Many thanks must go to all those who have worked so hard through the year and who show so much commitment to this important strategic project; particularly to Jim Molloy who has so ably led the design and build team, to Andy Minchin and his fundraising team who have kept the money flowing in and who have faced the challenge of working with professional Fundraiser - Action Planning. Unfortunately, at a time when considerable investment in the project was needed, the income has failed to keep up. Fortunately we had sufficient accumulated funds to pay all the bills. Thanks also to David Davies who has managed the project accounts; Brian Mansbridge who does so much for Christ Church, for his wise counsel and support as a member of the PLT and Rita Drake who has tirelessly continued to assist with all aspects of administration in spite of so many other commitments. The support of the prayer group set up by June Ames has also been very important as the year has progressed but thanks must go to all those in the church and many outside who

have supported or contributed in any way to the tremendous progress that has been made.

As the project is "paused" whilst priestly leadership authority is re-established in the church we receive many letters of encouragement from supporters, patrons and potential partners outside the church. Bishop Kenneth, although so ill, writes to say how sorry he is that it has been necessary to "pause" the project and to assure us that everything possible is being done by the Diocese to help the parish.

Please do read the attached Project Holding Statement (see appendix) for full information on the current position of the project at the time of writing this report.

**Sheila Gill - Project Coordinator**

### **YOOF2 and Hall of Sound**

Owing to the illness of our vicar, both these activities have had to be suspended. no report has therefore been produced.

### **Communications Group**

Regular meetings took place last year when the group looked at the various methods of communication within the parish eg Portsdown Post, website, displays in church and the church hall. Opportunities to improve the format were made and we are particularly grateful to Nigel Wheatley for his contribution as the editor of Portsdown Post and as webmaster. If you have not looked at the website for a while please do at [www.christchurchportsdown.org](http://www.christchurchportsdown.org) as it contains a significant amount of information on activities within our church. Sadly, the absence of a vicar and a chairman for much of the year did not allow the committee to have the necessary leadership and the whole group was stood down by the PCC in early 2007.

**Graham Olway**

### **Reader's Report**

Each year I have usually been involved with about a dozen funerals. In 2006 it was more than 20. If I had known that this could be part of Reader's role I probably would not have trained. God does work in mysterious ways! But it is a privilege to be involved in this ministry and to be able to encourage bereaved people to find hope despite their loss.

There has been the regular leading of services and preaching, including some Wednesday mornings as we tried to use resources sensibly. Perhaps the most challenging involvement has been the Home Groups and Parish Meetings. Another challenge was organising our Good Friday "Walk of Witness" on Portsdown Hill. I have valued being part of the Scout and Guide Support Association whilst they in turn have contributed to our Parade Services (who can forget the Harvest

Scarecrows!) Regular Book Reviews for The Reader Magazine have continued but I confess to NOT having much contact with the Deanery or Diocese, as the parish has to come first.

At present there is a lack of Reader candidates and many have "defected" to training for ordination. This **worries** me as I am committed to the idea of being a Lay Theologian and having the freedom within "the priesthood of all believers" to exercise a preaching and teaching role. I am not alone in my views and the debate is on-going as to the future of Reader Ministry - as there are 10,000 of us, nationally! As I come up to 19 years as Christ Church Licensed Reader I have to thank all who are so encouraging and affirming - without you I would not have the loving support which is so rewarding. Nor would we be able to praise the Lord so often together!

Cynthia Whittle

### **Mothers Union Report for the Parish Year Book 2007**

We started 2006 with 40 members including 6 who belong to the Indoor Members Prayer Circle (IMPC). A new enrolment in January brought the total membership to 41. Sadly one of our members - Maggie Harris - died in April. For most of the year we had no Branch Leader, so the members of the Committee continued to lead the Branch, planning the programmes, various activities throughout the year and taking it in turns to lead the fortnightly meetings. A vote of thanks is due to them for their work in enabling the Branch to function smoothly. A new Branch Leader was commissioned on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

We met on 19 occasions in 2006 with an average attendance of 18. Our year began with the A.G.M and Bring and Buy. In February Sylvia Fisher talked about the path she had travelled to becoming a Church Warden, and later that month Sally Smith enlightened us as to what waste could and could not be recycled. March saw Hazel Farrell talking to us about her book 'Dog Rose Summer', and at the end of the month, Anne Laurie led a session on Answering Gods Call. The spring term ended with the Rev. Karen Schmidt giving us a talk on Easter Reflections.

The summer term began with a service in Church led by the Rev. Charles Keay. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> a very successful coffee morning was held in the Church Hall, and on May 16<sup>th</sup> Laura Beale talked about her early life being brought up in Whipsnade Zoo. In June we welcomed Helen Somerset-How who gave us a talk on the work of the Rainbow Centre in Fareham, and on June 20<sup>th</sup> our annual outing took us to Kew Gardens. In July our Diocesan President Pauline Wale talked to us about her visit to the U.S.A. Our garden party took place on July 18<sup>th</sup> in Ros and Jim Molloy's garden on a lovely warm summers day.

The Rev Paul Norton led a service in Church on September 5<sup>th</sup> to start our autumn term. On September 19<sup>th</sup> members entertained each other with recollections of humorous moments in their lives. Bill Close and Bill Hedger gave an illustrated

talk on Cacti Flowering on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed on October 17<sup>th</sup> by a talk on fire safety by Community Fire Officer Bill New. We enjoyed a quiz; tea and chat with Brenda Hadley on November 7<sup>th</sup>, and Gill Cross gave an illustrated talk on Tradecraft and Travels including her travels in Cuba on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Our annual Christmas Carols and Readings took place on December 5<sup>th</sup> followed by a Christmas Tea. All who attended enjoyed this. A fitting end to a very busy year.

Members attended various Deanery and Diocesan events and services during the year. The highlight being the visit to the Portsmouth Diocese of the Mothers Union World Wide President, Trish Heywood. A Diocesan Festival Service was held in Portsmouth Cathedral followed by lunch and an afternoon service at which Trish Heywood spoke.

We are a very lively, active group here at Christchurch. We continue to be one of the largest branches in the Portsmouth Diocese and meet regularly throughout the year with a steady membership and a good average attendance. We had a very busy day in July preparing and serving refreshments at the Parish Fete. We are also involved in other activities including making up toilet bags for use in the Accident and Emergency Department, and helping care for children whilst visiting at Kingston Prison. We also maintain the 'Happy Bags' for younger Church Members, and send 1st Anniversary Baptism Cards and also Wedding Cards to couples marrying at Christ Church.

We are delighted to record that one of our own members, Sheila King, is to be the next Portsmouth Diocesan President of the Mothers Union.

Thank you to all who have supported, encouraged and prayed for us during 2006. We look forward, with God's help and support to another fruitful and interesting year in 2007.

**Sheila Taylor**

### **Scripture Union**

The number of people taking Scripture Union notes remains approximately the same. A small proportion use "Encounter with God". These notes are aimed at those who want to interpret and apply the Bible in a way that is relevant to the issues of today's world. The majority read "Daily Bread". This helps us to hear from God as we read the Bible. This year's layout is a little easier to read and I hope that this will help those readers who were experiencing some difficulty with last year's publication.

**Pauline Metcalfe.**

### **Flower Stewards**

The services of the flower arrangers at Christ Church were in great demand again this year by the many weddings which took place through the summer months of 2006.

We are very grateful to all those kind people in the church who have supported us so generously with their contributions 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.

Sadly Maggie Harris died in April after her long illness, so bravely born. As a tribute to her, a new Candle Stand was dedicated in her memory on the first Sunday of Advent, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2006. We have greatly missed Maggie's sure guidance and leadership and it has been quite a learning curve for all of us. Jenny and Ros have done their very best to follow her example in the roles as joint co-ordinators.

We would like to thank the reliable monthly Flower Stewards, who have worked so hard to make our church look wonderful every week the whole year round. To them and also to everybody else who willingly volunteers to arrange flowers for weddings when required and especially for your efforts for the special festivals throughout the Christian Year, our grateful thanks.

Lastly we would welcome help from anyone who would like to join us in arranging flowers, especially at Christmas, Easter and at Harvest Festival. It is fun, creative and rewarding.

**Jenny Whiteside and Ros Molloy - Joint Co-ordinators for flower stewards**

### **"Rusty Cutters"**

We were sad to receive the resignation of our regular gardener, Shirley Stone, but were then fortunate in being able to appoint a husband and wife team, Peter and Penny Thurgood, almost immediately.

It is important to record our special thanks to Toby Olway for his efforts with his strimmer. It is because of the efforts of all the workers that the Churchyard is looking so good, and this has in turn allowed me more time for church maintenance. Our regular team members turn out whatever the weather. They are Roy Downey, Eric Tewsley and John Partridge. Please note that there is always room for more volunteers - we can soon find you a job!

**Colin Dove**

### **Christ Church website**

The parish website has continued to grow and develop during 2006 with a refresh of the base design and content. In addition to new content, a search page and rolling news line from the BBC has also been introduced. The objective of the changes has been to make the information easier to find and to reduce the number of pages.

The key to a successful web site continues to be up to date information. In order to ensure accurate and up to date information owners have been assigned for all the pages. If you own a page please take time to review the content and send any

changes or updates to the webmaster  
(mailto:webmaster@christchurchportsdown.org)

I look forward to 2007 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**

### **Pastoral Care Group**

Following a six-week training course, we launched our Pastoral Care Group autumn, and commissioned fifteen volunteers at a church service in the autumn. They now undertake a variety of pastoral visits to the bereaved, the sick and housebound. We are also helping a family with very young children. All our volunteers have been checked by the criminal records bureau. Our vision for the future is that as we develop and grow, we may be able to join together with other churches in our cluster, for both visiting and training.

**Sandy Phillips**

### **Sanctuary Guild - Church Cleaning (Mops and dusters brigade)**

Ros and I would like to thank our helpers for all their hard work and their reliability. They turn up every Wednesday morning. Joan Rooke and Anya Downie are the brass cleaners; Wendy Mansbridge and Bea Beaden sweep, vacuum, etc. Bea will not be able to help out for a while due to her health problems, so if there is anyone with a few hours to spare we would welcome them. Please don't just look at the cobwebs - come and help chase them away. We meet on Wednesday mornings at about 10.45, directly after the morning service.

**Ann Dove**

### **Portsdown Post**

2006 has marked a number of changes to the magazine ... A change of front cover with the use of a photo of the Church rather than a drawing and later in the year the introduction of colour. Inside we have seen the introduction of a different type face and cleaner layouts together with the use of clear photos.

In order to ensure the magazine continues to cover running costs the PCC approved a price increase to better reflect the costs, including the additional costs for the use of colour. Even with the increase the magazine is still one of the cheapest "paid for" magazines in the diocese. We are currently printing around 380 copies each month, most of which are distributed to individual homes.

To get the magazine to you requires quite a few people - and they all deserve a vote of thanks. - to all of you who put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and contribute items for inclusion, with special thanks to Cynthia for the "round the Parish" series, To Gill Cross for the printing, to David Salmond, Margaret Baggs, Gill Cross and the rest of the "Coffee at Gill's" folding team, to Ros Molloy and her

stalwart team of delivers and finally not forgetting Fiona for her proof reading of my suspect editing work and catching most of the gremlins work.

If you don't get a regular copy of the magazine then sign up now - See Ros Molloy I am waiting for YOUR article .... Get writing !

**Nigel Wheatley - Editor**

### **SIDESMAN'S REPORT**

Judy Scott handed over responsibility for the Sidesman Rota to Keith Fisher at the end of 2006 so that she could give more time to her university studies. Many thanks Judy for all your efforts and hard work over a long period of time which has resulted in a cheerful and welcoming Sidespersons Team of volunteers at Christ Church.

The team remains very much the same group of volunteers named in last years Year Book with the duty coming around about every two months or so. I would emphasise the important part that the sidespersons play at the main services on Sunday morning supporting the Clergy and Wardens by preparing and giving out the Service Sheets and Service Books, taking the collection and tidying up the church after the services. Newcomers to the church always remember a cheerful smile and greeting . Many thanks to all of you for your continued assistance.

**Keith Fisher**

### **Mission Support**

We praise the Lord that we could meet our commitments to mission in 2006, with donations to a total of £7035, and although the monthly free-will offering bowl was rarely full, it did usefully augment mission funds. In 2006, £571 went to the Childrens Society (from Christingle and Candlelit Supper) with £717 for TEAR Fund (£385 from Lent Lunches), an impressive £2740 was given to Christian Aid (mainly from house-to-house collections), while Junior church sold £30 worth of biscuits towards the £176 for MAF. We gave £1251 to CMS (with £360 from Harvest Supper and £321 from CMS boxes). The Leprosy Mission received £210, Mission to Seafarers £205, The Bible Society £108, Scripture Union £227, Barnabas Fund £132, Simeon's Trustees £150, Life Words £100, mission partners £200 and British Legion £249. Fair Trade sales of £2000+ helped folk in developing countries and made a small profit.

The PCC approved our support for the missions listed below for 2007, with allocations shown from our parish tithe, plus monthly free will offerings and monies raised from dedicated events. The PCC also decided to use the £300, which had been accumulating for St Peters, Koforidua, to assist their current Koforidua clergy stipend fund and an oil palm plantation project.

<b>Mission Agency/Cause (event)</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>FWO</b>	<b>PCC</b>
Leprosy Mission	<i>Molly Ayling</i>	Jan	+£100
Children's Society (Candlelit Supper+Christingle)	<i>Ann Dove</i>	Feb	2 events
TEAR Fund (Lent lunches)	<i>Gill Cross</i>	Mar	+£200
The Barnabas Fund	<i>Margaret Baggs</i>	Apr	+£100
Christian Aid (door-to-door collection)	<i>Rosemary Nisbet</i>	May	+£250
Mission Aviation Fellowship (Junior Church)	<i>Jackie Quinn</i>	Jun	+£100
Mission to Seafarers & Fishermen (Sea Sunday)	<i>Jim Molloy</i>	July	+£200
Church Mission Society (Safari Supper)	<i>Cynthia Whittle</i>	Aug	+£500
St Peter's Koforidua Ghana (IDWAL link)	<i>Roger Banks</i>	Sep	+£100
Scripture Union & Bible Society (28 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	<i>Pauline Metcalfe</i>	Oct	+£300
Simeon's Trustees (19 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	<i>Stuart Davies</i>	Nov	+£150
Send-a-Cow (Internal Christmas card)	<i>Cynthia Whittle</i>	Dec	n.a.
Roberts Centre/Two Saints (gifts in kind)	<i>Margaret Baggs</i>	Oct- Dec	Gifts
<b>Other agencies &amp; personnel supported :</b>			
Life Words - SGM (free literature)	<i>Patrick Whittle</i>	-	£100
Isobel Booth-Clibborn, Uganda	<i>Cynthia Whittle</i>	-	£100
Hellen Ogwal, Lira, Uganda	<i>Karen Davies</i>	-	£100
Bejoy Lama (Nepal)	<i>Cynthia Whittle</i>	-	-
Rupa Chhetri (India)	<i>Patrick Whittle</i>	-	-
<b>Emergencies or special needs :</b>			
In reserve			£700
Total			£3000

**The Church Mission Society** is the main Anglican missionary society, which has long been supported by this parish. We have links with Rev Hellen Ogwal in Lira, northern Uganda, and with Isobel Booth-Clibborn and her daughter Shiisa, in Kampala, Uganda. Hellen is a school chaplain while Isobel directs the work of VIVA for needy children in eastern Africa. . In 2006 the Harvest Supper was the annual fund-raising event for CMS and in the summer of 2007 we plan a Safari Supper to boost our support.

#### **St Peter's Cathedral, Koforidua**

We are supporting two projects in Koforidua, Ghana, once visited by six of our members. We hope to further cement the link by bringing one of their members to visit Portsdown but in the short term we are supporting their clergy stipend and oil palm plantation project.

#### **TEAR Fund**

The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund aims to relieve poverty, suffering and distress and to prevent ill health among people of the world while promoting Christian education and evangelism. TEAR fund operates wherever there are disasters,

refugees or need and the proceeds of our Saturday Lent lunches will once again go towards this cause.

### **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid is an interdenominational Christian agency providing for needy societies throughout the world, channelling aid through 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.

### **Mission to Seafarers & Fishermens Mission**

Some members of the congregation knit woolly hats and scarves for these two missions. They give spiritual and practical support to seafarers of all nationalities and faiths in ports around the world and help the families of seafarers and fishermen in times of hardship.

### **The Leprosy Mission**

The Leprosy Mission aims to eradicate this disease completely from the whole world and give hope and renewed life to leprosy sufferers through education, rehabilitation, medication, surgery, physiotherapy and loving Christian care.

### **Barnabas Fund**

This mission supports persecuted churches, particularly in non-Christian lands of North Africa, like Sudan (and Darfur), and the Middle East (including Israel, Palestine & Iraq). We shall have a special speaker from Barnabas Fund at our 10.30 service on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Bible Society**

We take our various versions of the Bible for granted but the Bible Society translates, prints and distributes the Word of God in many languages, working through indigenous local Bible societies in many lands. Last year our home groups used the 100-minute Bible as a basis for an "Overview of the Bible" and our next studies will be from Hebrews.

### **Scripture Union**

SU daily Bible reading notes are used by church members and SU teaching/learning aids are used in Junior Church. Scripture Union children's ministry of beach missions, camps, holiday clubs and outdoor activities are an important evangelistic tool in many countries, that some of our young people attend in Britain and Europe.

### **Lifeworlds**

Our contribution to the Scripture Gift Mission (now called Lifeworlds) helps pay for the supply of Christian literature for visitors to our church or functions like the summer fete.

### **Simeon's Trustees**

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

### **Children's Society**

There are many children in need in our own country who depend on our assistance which we promote through events like the Candlelit Supper and Christingle.

### **Roberts Centre and Two Saints**

These two local Christian agencies support and assist people in need in our city. Our help is mainly in the form of donations of food from the Harvest Festival and of clothing and bedding, or toiletries and toys from Christmas gift services.

### **P. A. Whittle**

### **Traidcraft and Fair Trade**

This year we have continued to support Traidcraft by ordering goods to the value of over two thousand pounds. Our main selling items have been tea, coffee, honey, fruit juice and nuts.

In April I was fortunate enough to be included on a Traidcraft study tour to Cuba where we visited producers and saw the projects which have been developed with fair trade premiums. It was inspiring to see the efficient way in which premiums are decided upon and administered and the changes these are making to family lives.

Concerns have been expressed by the media about the mark-up which supermarkets have been putting on fairly traded goods. Traidcraft has therefore extended its support and encouragement to increase the work of those who are running stalls such as our own at Christ Church. Every item purchased helps to improve the life of small traders in third world countries. We are grateful to all those who support our stall which also helps the income of our own church in a small way.

### **Gill Cross**

### **Men's "Early bird" Breakfast Summary for 2006.**

There were eight breakfasts held during the year, at six weekly intervals, with a break in August for the holidays. Attendance has remained steady with about eighteen men attending each breakfast. There are thirty men who attend sometime throughout the year. We are always looking for speakers, so if you feel you could talk for ten to fifteen minutes on a subject of your choice, please have a word with me. This is the fifth year that the breakfasts have been running and its continued success is due to the dedicated team of ladies who prepare and serve the food for us. On behalf of the men can I offer our thanks to these ladies for the wonderful job they have done. Its time to name names so our thanks again to: Linda Banks, Maureen Enticknap, Sheila Gill, Pat Hatchard, Judith Mallinson, Pauline Metcalafe, Rosemary Nesibit, Jenny Whiteside and Sylvia Whitmore Jones. Due to various reasons the ladies team is less in numbers for the coming year, so if there is anyone who would like to join the team, please contact Jenny Whiteside. The team work on a rota system so you do not have to be available for every breakfast.

The breakfasts remain popular so a further eight are planned for 2007. 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 to a breakfast but have not received an invitation, there are always spare invitations left at the back of the church.

**Pat Cole**

### **Guiding at Christ Church**

A wide variety of activities have been undertaken with Rainbows (5-7 year olds) Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14's) and the Senior Section (14+) over the past twelve months.

The Rainbows enjoyed taking part in the new rainbow Programme encompassing the four themes look, learn, care and laugh and we had visitors from New Zealand teaching us new songs and dance. We have 8 rainbows in the unit with three leaders. I would like to express my thanks for their hard work and commitment. Rainbows regularly attend Church Parades and events within the district. We look forward to a rewarding year ahead.

The Brownie pack has undertaken a variety of trips and overnight activities this year which have included: a pack holiday at the Petersfield Guide Headquarters with activities on an "Around the World theme", and a three day holiday at Park Place Pastoral Centre in October with the theme of "Christmas". The girls enjoyed trying out new craft activities, plus putting out their stockings for Father Wise Owl to come and visit! A terrific New Year's Eve party finished off the weekend. During the summer eleven Brownies enjoyed a day out to Longdown activity farm. Here they bottle fed calves and baby goats plus experienced holding rabbits and chicks. In the autumn term a trip to the Horizon play centre in Havant took place. The Brownies were able to climb, swing, jump and slide for at least two hours. As part of our promise to help other people, the Brownies undertook a sponsored senses night, which raised £175 for the Children with Leukaemia charity. A good effort from all the girls.

The Brownies also achieved many badges over the year, which included toymakers and seasons. One of our Brownies - Jessica - managed to obtain every Brownie Badge and was featured in the Evening News for her achievements.

1<sup>st</sup> Portsdown Guides have also been involved in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. We began the year with a four week course with the Fire Service. The girls were invited to the Southsea station and spent time finding out about fire safety, looking around the engines and putting a full fire fighter outfit on their Guide Captain(the helmet did not suit me)! We were also invited to the fire service call centre at Eastleigh. Here we were shown what happens when a 999 call comes in. All girls received training on home safety and what to do in the event of a fire. A valuable learning experience for all who took part.

Last year's camp was held at Foxlease. Activities included archery, a low ropes course, swimming, camp craft and a visit to Foxlease House. We were allowed to visit the room Lord and Lady Baden-Powell used when they visited the house. In October eight older guides visited Brecon for a weekend. We walked under a waterfall, went down the Big Pit and spent a beautiful Sunday morning at the mountain centre watching mists clear from the mountains. A return visit is planned when they hope to climb Pen-y-fyn - the highest mountain in South Wales. Fifteen guides travelled to Wembley to the BIG GIG when thousands of Guides from all over the country attend the annual pop concert. The year's guests included Shayne Ward, winner of last years X-factor and Matt Willis who was recently in "I'm a celebrity get me out of here". The girls had a great time singing, shouting and calling. Guide leaders wished they had brought ear plugs as the screams were deafening when the artists came on stage! We joined with Purbrook guides in October for the "Guiding Star" event. This was an excellent evening, with three of the girls from Portsdown going through to the next round. We had a very successful winter weekend at our new HQ in November. The girls made Christmas cards and presents for family and friends. They also undertook several fundraising events and supported church activities which included, helping to decorate the church for harvest, run a stall at the Christmas Fayre, plus helping to make and distribute Christingles for the service in December.

Once Guides reach 14 they can join the Senior Section. Here they can join the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme or the Guide Look Wider programme. Portsdown Guiding has currently two units in operation: the Look Wider group has been working on the eight sections of this award, which have included life skills such as cookery and health awareness; whilst another group have been working on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. A banner that was designed and sewn by two of the group now proudly hangs at the HQ. The theme of the piece of work was 'poverty and me' and focussed on what we have compared to others in poorer countries. The young women have taken up swimming as the physical section of the award, with their service being to organise a concert to raise money for some music equipment for Purbrook Park School. They are currently planning their expedition to the New Forest for the summer.

In the summer we will be saying goodbye to Sue Clark, who has been the Rainbow Leader for a number of years. She will be retiring from Guiding, having given many hours to the Rainbow unit. Nicola Blofield, who is currently a unit guider with the Brownies will take over this post. Barbara Grayson will also be leaving the Rainbow unit in the summer to take up the post of County President for Guiding in Hampshire East. We wish them both well and thank them for their energy and commitment to the girls attending Guiding units at Christ Church.

**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 the sections have implemented engaging and dynamic programmes, enjoyed by the 60+ membership.

Beavers Scout Colony.

The boys have enjoyed a variety of handicrafts and experiences on a Tuesday evening, including making games, cooking, badge work, a night hike, as well as sharing 'fun and friends.' Many of our Beavers have achieved their Outdoor Challenge and Friendship Challenge as well as their Creative, Explorer, Experiment, Swimmers and the new Hikes Away Activity Badges. As usual the Colony has taken an active role in the Beaver District events and competitions.

Cub Scout Pack.

The Pack has enjoyed a variety of activities including kite making, origami, cooking, swimming, as well as the more traditional Scouting skills such as a night hikes, sleepovers, pioneering, semaphore, map work, tracking and of course knots. Our Cubs have been involved in the City of Portsmouth Summer Fete, District Activity Hike, 6 a-side football, Swimming Gala, Chess and Draughts and Conker Competitions and even represented the City in a County Handicraft Competition. The Pack also enjoyed a very successful camp at Slindon in West Sussex and have gained many Challenge and Activity Badges throughout the year.

Scout Troop.

It has been another busy and exciting year for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Portsmouth Scout Troop, one which has seen numbers increase. As well as our normal Friday night Scouting activities, night hikes, out of town nights we have taken opportunities to go climbing, swimming and rifle shooting.

The annual camp was at the Hampshire Scout Campsite at Ferny Crofts in the New Forest. A great week of activities was enjoyed by all, including swimming, shooting, archery, hiking, crate stacking, mountain biking, beach volleyball and climbing. We also had a day out from camp and visited the Motor Museum at Beaulieu.

The Troop joined other Scouts and Guides in the area for a 'Mix and Meet' action packed weekend at Shedfield as well as entering various City Competitions for Chess, Swimming, Cooking and Hiking to name but a few. Some members of the Group have attended Church Parades and the Christingle Service. They did particularly well at the Remembrance Service and brought gifts for the Harvest. We were particularly pleased with the efforts made for our Scouting Centenary Parade Service.

**Elaine and Mark Isaacs - Scouters in Charge - 72<sup>nd</sup> Portsmouth (1<sup>st</sup> Portsdown) Scout Group**

## Havant Deanery Synod Activities During 2006

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006 - St. Frances, Leigh Park: The main focus of the evening was a presentation of the Diocesan Structural Review by the Ven. Dr. Trevor Reader and the Ven. Peter Hancock.

2. Finance: Tony Rice-Oxley presented the 2005 deanery account. David Williams reported that Havant deanery had again met its parish share in full and thanked all parishes for their support.
3. Elections: Deanery Pastoral committee - Alex Hill (Catherington)  
Deanery Standing Committee - Lynda Palmer (Hart Plain)

June 14<sup>th</sup> - Hart Plain Church

1. Finance: Revd. Paul Moore updated the meeting on the issue of clergy pensions. There will be a need for substantial increases in contributions which will affect parish shares for 2007.
2. Felicity Keeping gave an informative presentation on the Hampshire Family Mentoring Partnership between Barnardos, Hampshire Children's services and the Diocese of Portsmouth.
3. the following have, or are soon to be, inducted as Vicar:  
Sandra Edwards - Denmead                      Karen Schmidt - Purbrook      Paul Smith - West Leigh  
Tim Jessiman - Hart Plain                      John Naude - Crookhorn  
The following from our deanery are to be ordained: Phil Amey, Thelma Barber and Meg Kirby as deacons; Tom Kenhart and Ronnie Williams as priests.
4. Elections:
5. House of Clergy: David Gibbons, Paul Ginever, Gill Hill, Tim Jessiman, Paul Moore, Janice O'Shaughnessy, Paul Norton, Angela Johnson, Sandra Edwards and Paul Smith. There remain three vacancies.  
House of Laity: Colin Brown, June Hanan, Felicity Keeping, Sheila King, Linda Palmer, Marjorie McGillivray, Ian Hewitt, Annie Reeves, Tony Palmer, Gary Smith, Paula Jeffery, Michael Law and Rose Chase.  
1 lay vacancy remains.

Sept 19<sup>th</sup>: St. Mary's Hayling Island.

1. The very Revd David Brindley presented the plans for the redevelopment of the Cathedral House. The offices have moved to Peninsular House. £1.32m of the £2m cost has already been raised.
2. elections: House of Clergy - Ann Leonard and John Risdon  
House of Laity - Mary Close
3. Presentation by David Williams on clergy pensions. This was followed by debate and voting took place on the three options given to us. General Synod will make the final decision in Feb. 2007.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> - St. James Church, Emsworth

1. IDWAL: Angela Herring informed us that three projects are being considered in Koforidua and asked for support for one or more of these projects from the Deanery.
2. Deanery Partnership. Some progress has been made but more people need to be involved. A leader for each partnership is needed.
3. Finance. Resolutions passed:

Capitation fee will remain at £20 per member for 2007.

The proposed parish share for 2007 recommended by the Deanery Finance Committee. (there were 11 abstentions, which included your representatives)

4. Paul Moore thanked Georgie Black for her support and hard work as Deanery Secretary for the deanery and clergy over the past eight years. She was presented with a gift and flowers. Georgie has moved to Scotland.

**Christchurch Deanery Synod Representatives - Andy Minchin and Ros Molloy**