

# Christ Church Portsdown

## Parish Year Book



**April 2008**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2008**  
To be held at Christ Church on Thursday 3rd April 2008

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of church wardens
4. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 2007
5. Matters arising (previously notified to the chairman)
6. Electoral roll
7. The parish year book:
  - a. Report on the proceedings of the church council
  - b. Report on church goods, fabric and ornaments
8. Parish Finances
  - a. Treasurer's report
  - b. To accept the examined accounts for 2007
  - c. To reappoint the independent examiner
9. Election of 5 representatives to the Parochial Church Council
10. Election of two representatives to the Deanery Synod.
11. Date of the first meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council - (Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008)
12. Appointment of sidespersons.
13. Chairman's remarks.
14. Any other business previously notified to the chair
15. Closing Prayer

## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council held in the Church on Thursday 22nd March 2007

Chair: Ven Trevor Reader, Archdeacon of Portsmouth.

1. The archdeacon opened the meeting with prayers. Revd. Sandy Phillips read Phillipians ch.2
2. **Apologies** were received from Reg Taylor, Martin Baggs, Jenny Whiteside, John & Maureen Entiknapp, Brenda and John Hadley, Trevor Filtness, Nikki Marriott, Cyril and Peggy Charlesworth, Emma Dove, Richard Brown Nicola Olway, Rita Drake, Peter Gill, Ismay Doughty, Isobel Oakshott, Irene and Godfrey Joly, Fiona Wheatley, Julia Minchin, John and Joan Wild, Molly Ayling, Dave Fowler, Harry Horn. 59 parishioners were present.
3. **Election of Church wardens.** Sylvia Fisher and Rosemary Filtness were re-elected. They were thanked for all their hard work during a difficult and challenging time - due to the ongoing health problems of our vicar.

At this stage in the proceedings the archdeacon asked that his Chairman's Report be brought forward.

12. **Chairman's Report.** The Archdeacon said that the parish had been through a very difficult time. We had been assisted during this interim period by Revd. Stuart Cleaver, Revd. Ray Chapman, and Revd. Charles Keay. Revd. Paul Norton is now to retire on health grounds as from 31<sup>st</sup> march 2007. He will reside in the vicarage for three months until he can find alternative accommodation. The bishop has agreed to fill the post as soon as possible. There is to be a PCC meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April which the archdeacon and Simeon's trustee will attend. An NSM will help out for a while during the interim. PCC can advertise for an incumbent. This could cost £440. Alternatively we could ask Simeon's Trustees to supply one as they are our patron. The bishop can suggest names to the trustees and the diocese will pay all fees during this sequestration. Thanks to the archdeacon for all his time and trouble on our behalf.
4. **Confirmation of minutes of 2006 APCM.** These were passed as correct and signed by the archdeacon.
5. **Matters Arising.** There were none
6. **The Electoral Roll.** Jenny Whiteside, the Electoral Roll Officer, stated that every six years we are required to renew the electoral roll. There were 176 members on the old roll - now we have 155 on the new roll. 71 live outside the parish boundary and 84 within the boundary. Thanks to jenny for all her work in compiling the new electoral roll.
7. **The Parish Year Book.** Sylvia fisher said that the parish was "bruised but not broken". This year had been another hard slog for all of us, and a hard decision for the PCC was to put the Portsdown Parish Centre on hold. Thanks were extended to Sheila gill, Jim Molloy and all their team for their hard work and dedication. Also a big thank you to sandy Phillips and Cynthia whittle for their parish work. Our outreach and pastoral care had been tremendous and very rewarding. Congratulations to Sheila king on her appointment as diocesan president of the Mothers Union. Sylvia fisher and rosemary Filtness look forward, along with the entire congregation, to welcoming a new vicar in the not too distant future. Thanks were given to all those who took part in producing the year book.
8. **Financial report and audited accounts.** Numbers and giving are down by £1000. Our quota is up 6% ie £3779.09 every month. Increased giving is desperately needed and economic use of our facilities. Can quote be reduced to help us? Brian is to attend a deanery finance

committee meeting when he will have his say. Colin dove then stated that we need £35000 to repair the church roof, and gave a brief history of where our money went in the past - mainly to build a much needed church at Crookhorn

- a. Proposed by Nigel Wheatley that we accept the accounts for 2006, seconded by Ann Davies. Unanimously agreed. Thanks were expressed for the excellent presentation of the accounts. Brian Mansbridge stated that as from the 2008 APCM he will be retiring - so we will soon need a new treasurer.
- b. To appoint an independent examiner. Roy west retired last year from this post but was persuaded by the treasurer to examine the financial report. Roy west congratulated the money counters. The meeting was asked if there was anyone willing to take on this post. David Davies offered his services and was elected.

**9. Election of the PCC.** There are vacancies for PCC representatives. Ann Dove(Secretary), Graham Olway and Ismay Doughty finished their term of office.

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Sheila Taylor	Patricia Hatchard	Norma Gibney
Alex Bell	Norma Gibney	Margaret Baggs
Ruth Fowler	Ann Dove	Gill Cross
Karen Davies	Melanie Brown	Ann Dove
Sheila King	Norma Gibney	Ann Dove

(as Diocesan MU Pres.)

All nominees were willing to stand. Since there were no other nominations these persons were elected to serve for the next three years.

**10. Date of the first meeting of the newly elected PCC** - Monday 2nd April at 1930 in church. The archdeacon will chair this meeting.

**11. Election of sidespersons** Keith fisher took over the rota from Judy Scott in December 2006. Judy was thanked for her previous work. The following sidespersons were nominated for a further year:

Phillip Aspey, June Ames, Roger & Linda Banks, Pat Cole, Rita Drake, Ann & Colin Dove, Sheila & Peter Gill, Harry Horne, Brian & Sheila King, Brian Mansbridge, Roger & Pauline Metcalfe, John Partridge, Harry Rooke, Molly Ayling, Andrew Silk, Pauline Letters.,

Keith Fisher thanked all those on the rota for the unfailing support and co-operation over the past year. Proposed by Judy Scott and seconded by Wendy Mansbridge

**13. Any Other Business** A new PCC secretary is needed. Graham Olway volunteered.

The archdeacon thanked Revd Sandy Phillips, Cynthia Whittle and the Church Wardens for prevailing during this difficult time.

**14. Website:** A presentation was given by Nigel Wheatley on the Christ Church Website.

Enquiries come from all around the globe - mainly seeking burials plots of relatives.

Photographs can be put on the website of various activities but permission must be sought from those being photographed. The website is a good method of communication.

Sidespersons can look up their duty on the rota; people can find out what is on at the hall; and who is running events and activities. There is a map of the churchyard on the website and in the parish office.

**15. Closing Prayer.** The meeting closed at 2130 hours with the Grace. The archdeacon said that we look forward with hope and joy to the coming year.

# CHURCH REPORTS

## Introduction & Vicar's Report

What a year! Twelve months ago I knew nothing of Christ Church Portsdown, but now...

The few months since my Induction as Vicar of Christ Church have been something of a whirlwind. My first Sunday set the tone - a visiting speaker from Scripture Union, several baptisms, a sea of new faces, and an afternoon service for those who wished to remember loved ones who had died. Then it was straight into Remembrance Sunday, which was very different to my previous experience, soon to be followed by Christmas and, as if to make sure I didn't relax too much, an early Easter.

In between all that I've been trying to get to know you all, to review what happens at Christ Church, and to consider the future of the Parish Centre Project. I confess that I am still getting to know you and sometimes struggle with names, but I am so pleased to be here.

So what have I discovered in these few short months? Well, Christ Church is generally a welcoming friendly church. Certainly, the Wilson family have been made to feel very much at home. There is a desire to move forward, an understanding that we cannot stand still, and a good number of people who give sacrificially of their time to keep things going. In some ways, we are quite a mixed group, which means that there will have a range of opinions.

Thanks are due to all of you who have worked so hard through a difficult time to ensure that I have arrived at a church that is not in a state of collapse. Particular mention must be made of Sandy and Cynthia as Curate and Reader, Sylvia and Rosemary as Churchwardens and Keith as administrator, who all not only worked hard through the interregnum (and before), but have also worked to ensure that I could establish my ministry as quickly as possible, supporting when support is needed, allowing me space and accepting my weaknesses as well as (I hope!) my strengths. Of course, there are many others whose support has already been invaluable - including the PCC - but I won't attempt to name you all!

There is no doubt that we are going to need to work together if we are to move forward. My desire for Christ Church is that we become more the church that God wants us to be. The next few years will be a journey of discovery, with highs and lows, as we seek His way forward, and then do our best to follow. I hope that you're looking forward to it. I am.

*Revd. Andy Wilson*

## Church Wardens Report

The year proved to be both a challenging and rewarding one. It started with Christ Church going into an interregnum and culminated in welcoming Andy as our new vicar at a joyous and memorable institution service on 25<sup>th</sup> October 07.

Andy, Jacqui and family have settled quickly and are very much a part of our lives here at Christ Church.

During the interregnum we were grateful for the services of our curate Sandy, our Reader Cynthia also Revd. Mike Holloway, who joined us for a few months before going to his new parish in Gloucestershire. We are thrilled to know that Sandy will be staying with us, under the guidance of Andy, for a few more years.

Our thanks go to everyone who helped to keep the church and surrounds in good repair and the wheels running smoothly.

Among our high points this year have been the Summer Fete and Advent Fayre, the launch of the Roof Appeal and also the Friends of Christ Church appeal. We enjoyed some wonderful Lent lunches, Candlelit suppers, Bangers & Mash and skittles with many more gastronomic delights on the horizon. These are all events which raise much needed revenue but they are also important social gatherings for the church family and the wider community.

After much consideration and prayer, Rosemary will be standing down as churchwarden in order to support Trevor when he joins St. Andrews, Farlington in June. They have both been associated with Christ Church for over 20 years and will miss everyone.

Sylvia and Rosemary thank you for the support you have given them and would ask for your continued support in the coming year.

*Rosemary Filtness and Sylvia Fisher*

## Junior Church

We meet in the church hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month@ 10.30.a.m. during school term time. Working in 3 age groups, or all together, we make use of craft, stories, and music to learn about the Bible and our church calendar. A glorious autumn day in October half term saw the first Junior Church family barbecue at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Thanks to our expert 'griller' Nigel Wheatley. A great time was enjoyed by all.

*Jackie Quinn*

## Report on Financial Stewardship and Gift Aid 2007

It is very helpful if you can either pledge a weekly sum or commit to a regular standing order through your bank. Thank you to the many of you (around 100) who have made such a commitment, enabling us to plan our expenditure against an anticipated income. Please remember that inflation has the effect of eroding the value of our giving, so we should all review our pledges and standing orders each year.

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can gift aid this money. We can then claim back the tax from the Inland Revenue, effectively enhancing your gift by (currently) £2.82 for every £10.00, at no additional cost to yourself. Please see me for a gift aid declaration form, and we will do the rest. Even if you do not want to commit to a regular payment, you can still gift aid your giving, enabling us to claim back the tax every time you make a donation using one of our envelopes. 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.

I know that some of you do not gift aid your donations because you feel that the tax you pay is 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.

Based on the donations made in 2007, we have submitted claims to the Inland Revenue for £10,732. This is a significant element of income for the church, and it does represent an encouraging 14% increase from 2006. As this is all "free money", I urge you to sign up if you are tax payers. I would be delighted to talk to you about the gift aid scheme or the envelope scheme. Please contact me in person, or by telephone on 023 9237 0735, or leave a note for me in the "B" pigeon hole in the church.

*Roger Banks*

## Electoral Roll

The electoral roll totals 161 members, of which 77 are from outside the parish 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.

*Jenny Whiteside*

## Reader's Report

It was an eventful year for me, with a wonderful surprise lunch after I had received "Permission to Officiate" - not retirement. I was involved with 25 Funeral/Burials of Ashes in addition to the usual Sunday services, taking Home Communion to some house bound parishioners and organising Home Groups. Occasional book reviews for "Reader" magazine continue but I only did one "out of parish" Sunday preaching.

*Cynthia Whittle*

## Home Groups

Five groups met, monthly, or weekly during Lent, between Mondays and Thursdays. Through Bible Study, discussion and sharing of fellowship we try to build up each other's faith. We learned much from Hebrews but the later studies of Ruth also made a lasting impression.

*Cynthia Whittle*

## Friday Fellowship

Meeting each month on the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in the Church Hall, we sit and chat over cups of tea. It is an opportunity for friends to meet or an incentive to come out for an afternoon. Although the Christmas Lunch is a winter highlight the Strawberry Tea was another success; despite being indoors, enjoyment was not diminished.

*Cynthia Whittle.*

## Hall Management

The church hall management committee began regularly meetings and can report good progress with repairs, maintenance and cleanliness, having an efficient new cleaner. The hall income now covers expenses. Over £1000 was also donated towards improving the car park. We are grateful to Jackie Mumford for the generous time given to hall management.

*Patrick Whittle*

## Music Group ( Christchurch Singers / Christchurch Musicians )

The Singers meet every Friday evening at 1900hrs in the church. (1 hour duration)  
The musicians practice on the Saturday afternoon preceding each Family Service.  
The contact names are: Christchurch Singers (Eric Tewsley). Christchurch Musicians (Stuart Davies)

The Singers provide musical leadership throughout the service accompanied by the congregation. The musicians provide a suitable accompaniment for the Family Services. The Singers received a standing ovation for their Advent Anthem, "Come Prepare the Way" (organist Judith Williams). The musicians (or band) have improved steadily throughout the year with good support from younger members.

*Eric Tewsley*

### **Parish Web Site**

The parish website has continued to grow and develop during 2007. The key change this year has been to implement Google calendars to present a clearer view of what's going on. In addition, in support of the Kairos Cluster we have also implemented a cluster calendar for sharing events.

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 it and send any changes or updates to me (webmaster@christchurchportsdown.org)

I look forward to 2008 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*

### **Mothers Union Report**

We are a large, active branch, within the Portsmouth diocese, meeting twice a month in the church hall at 2.15p.m. At the start of 2007 we had 38 members, five being indoor members of the prayer circle. We average 18 members each meeting.

Our year was arranged over three terms and we aim to have a varied and stimulating programme of talks and events and services in church. Outstanding events during the year included the commissioning of two of our members - Sheila King as the new diocesan president and Norma Gibney as archdeaconry vice president. This took place at Portsmouth cathedral on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Another important event was the Mary Sumner day archdeaconry service that was hosted by our branch. Banners were processed and recessed and afterwards tea and cakes were served in the church hall. Revd. Bruce carpenter preached. Our own coffee morning and cake stall was another successful event, as was our Christmas tea and carols, and our outing to the RHS gardens at wisely.

Branch members continue to provide toiletry bags for the A&E department at QAH and to send first anniversary cards to children christened at Christchurch. We also provide the refreshments at the church summer fete and are involved in other branch deanery and diocesan events.

*Sheila Taylor*

### Flower Stewards

We are a small group but have a number of loyal helpers who come to our aid when necessary e.g. weddings (16 last year) and church festivals. We enjoy arranging flowers, which are a part of God's beautiful creation.

*Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside*

### Parish Prayer Group

The prayer group meets at 10am on the first Tuesday of each month at 40 Hillside Avenue. We pray for the needs and problems of our parish and individual members of our church. 2007 saw special prayers for the Lord's guidance in the appointment of a new incumbent and praise for the answer to those prayers.

*June Ames*

### Portsdown Post and News

2007 has seen further changes in the magazine content to use a single font style for clearer reading and additional use of colour pictures.

We continue to print around 380 copies each month, most of which are distributed to individual homes by our dedicated team of delivery agents. In addition we also produced two cards, one at Easter and one at Christmas and, thanks to many people in the congregation, we delivered them to most of the 2583 houses in the parish.

This year has seen an extension to the publishing house with the production of 16 special service booklets, including one for the institution of Revd Andy Wilson. Included were 8 wedding services where we printed the service booklets. This has generated additional income for the parish and helped cover magazine and other printing costs.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed articles, especially to Cynthia, Sandy and Charlie. Special thanks to Gill Cross, Margaret Baggs, David Salmond, Olga Oxtoby, Ros Molloy and to all those unsung hero's in the folding and delivery teams and to Fiona for proof reading my suspect editing work. If you don't get a regular copy of the magazine then sign up now. I am waiting for **YOUR** article .... Get writing!

*Nigel Wheatley*

### Pastoral Care Group

This group is made up of volunteers from members of the congregation who have undertaken an appropriate training course. We visit people in the community as a way of showing our commitment to Christ through offering care and practical help. Despite

being a small group we have managed to offer continued support to a number of housebound elderly during 2007. We hope in the future to recruit more volunteers, in order to be able to extend our visiting.

*Rev Sandy Phillips*

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

A happy band of volunteers meet every Wednesday morning at 10.45 a.m. to polish, dust and vacuum the church. Joan Rooke and Anya Downie clean the brass, Wendy Mansbridge, Ros Molloy and Bea Beaden when her health permits, plus yours truly do the sweeping, dusting, cobweb chasing and emptying the wastepaper bins. Our highlight was when a group of ramblers with very muddy boots, popped in to see the church (without removing their boots!). We were very polite to them - and cleaned up again after they had gone!

We would welcome new hands to help as sometimes we cannot all be there. If you could spare an hour - even if once a month - it would be a great help to us.

*Ann Dove*

### Rusty Cutters

We are much indebted to Eric Tewsley, Roy Downey and particularly the young Peter and Penny Thurgill, who turn out almost every week of the year to work somewhere in the church grounds. As we grow older the Rusty Cutters continue to corrode and it is perhaps time to ask if there is someone out there who would lead a Saturday morning team of volunteers to maintain the progress to date.

*Colin Dove*

### Sidesman's Report

The team is made up of ladies and gentlemen who assist the Wardens at the church during the main Sunday services and at additional services during festival periods such as Easter & Advent. They greet all visitors to the services as they enter the church and give out the pew & service booklets and hymn books as required. They assist the Duty Wardens during the collection and ensure the church is left tidy after each service. The team consists of 18 volunteers at the moment. 6 people have resigned over the last year and 3 new volunteers have been recruited, so there are vacancies. If you want to help out in this important task, please speak to me. Many thanks to all those that have assisted so cheerfully over the last year.

*Keith Fisher*

## **Mission Support**

We are thankful to God for moving people to give generously for mission so that, with our PCC tithe of income, Christ Church was able to send over £10,000 to support 25 missionary causes, as detailed in the accounts. These ranged from £2781 collected for Christian Aid, to £33.66 raised by a Junior Church biscuit bake for Mission Aviation Fellowship. During the inter regnum we were assisted by visiting speakers on behalf of CMS and Scripture Union, among others. Your Mission Support Committee meets 3 or 4 times per year, and welcomes contributions to prayer support and correspondence with link mission partners.

*Patrick Whittle*

## **Traidcraft and Fair Trade**

Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty. It seeks to transform the lives of producers in the developing world by encouraging them to use their skills and resources to trade their way out of poverty. It challenges injustices in trading and guarantees fairer trading practices, extra income for community development, safer working conditions and generates greater respect for the environment.

During the past year we have continued to support this effort and have also contributed comments and criticisms (along with other churches) at the annual general meeting in Durham. This has resulted in changes to the quality of some goods, particularly coffee and ginger cookies, and better parity in the prices offered by supermarkets. We have also managed to overcome the difficulties in obtaining some supplies.

Our turnover has not been quite as high as in previous years (approximately £1250 between January and December) but has picked up considerably in the past three months.

*Gill Cross*

## **Men's "Early bird" Breakfasts**

We have now completed the sixth year of Men's Breakfasts; eight being held during the past year at approximately six weekly intervals. Numbers attending continue to increase, the average being around 24, which means that we have almost reached the capacity of food that can be cooked in the oven at one time. The success we have had with this event is due entirely to our dedicated team of ladies who prepare the food time after time. So to Linda Banks, Pat Hatchard, Judith Mallinson, Pauline Metcalfe,

Ros Molloy, Rosemary Nisbet, Jenny Whiteside and Sylvia Whitmore-Jones, many, many thanks. A further eight breakfasts are planned for 2008 and the dates can be found on the church website. As always, invitations will be left at the back of church nearer the date of the event. Should you wish to join and haven't received an invitation; spare forms are left under the church notice board near the main door. Please complete by the date on the bottom of the form.

*Pat Cole*

### **Portsdown Toddler Group**

I have been running the group since September 2005 and it has gone from strength to strength with the attendance growing to around 40 mothers each week. This gives an average income of £60 per session and I believe this is the maximum number of parents we can accommodate. It has been made clear to all parents that money raised goes to the church or other charitable organisations.

Rental for the hall is £15 per week, refreshments cost £15 per week and public liability insurance costs £50 per year. Major expenses this year have been new toys and a donation of £300 to the car park appeal. This year I intend to purchase more soft play mats for the baby section and to give a further donation towards the new car park.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies from the church who offer me great help in running the group refreshments.

2007 proved to be a joyful and successful year for the group and this was capped by the Christmas party - enjoyed by all, especially the crib service. I look forward to the next twelve months and hope that they are as enjoyable as the last.

*Amanda Kind*

### **Evening Wives Group**

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month. We gather at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start at various members' homes. Jackie Shotton is the Group Leader, and Brenda Hadley the Treasurer. The Evening Wives group is affiliated to the Mothers' Union. We meet in the evenings with speakers or quizzes - or just for a chat. New members of all age groups are always welcome.

We ended our summer 2007 meetings as usual with an outing, this time to Emsworth where helpful and enthusiastic guides from the Emsworth Museum led us on a walking tour of the village ending up back at the Museum for refreshments.

We look forward to another year of fellowship.

*Rosemary Nisbet*

## Guiding at Christ Church

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and the Senior Section have had an active last 12 months! Rainbow and Brownie activities have included the 'Right to be me' Badge, a visit to the pantomime and a celebration for Sue and Barbara - Guiders who retired last summer. We were pleased that Nicola agreed to take over as our new Rainbow leader and we also welcomed Kathleen to the Guider team.

The Brownies performed a memorable Christmas nativity play to their parents, plus the girls have had the opportunity to attend a Pack holiday and other outdoor activities.

The Guide unit also undertook a variety of projects that have included: Guide camp at Meonwood, winter weekend at HQ and participation in the 'Go Green' project. Five girls have obtained the highest Award in Guiding - The Baden Powell Challenge. They will be presented with the Award on the 26<sup>th</sup> March on board HMS Victory. Well done to Alice, Lindsay, Beth, Harriet and Hannah. Four Guides were lucky enough to take part in a five-day environment project in the New Forest, this included gaining skills such as hedge laying and path-making.

The Senior Section unit (for girls 14 plus) is growing. There are seven members, all undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Laura and Angela completed their Bronze award at the end of last year and have just started the Gold. Others are starting their Bronze this year and are using swimming as their physical recreation activity. It is hoped their expedition will take place this summer.

Guides and Senior Section have also contributed to various fundraising opportunities: the Children's Society at the Christingle Service; running a stall at the Church Advent Fayre and organising a Jumble sale to raise funds to improve the rear car park. The largest fundraising success was an application made to the Youth Opportunities Fund for the Garden Makeover project. This bid was made to improve the area around HQ, so that all groups will be able to fully utilise the space around the building.

As Leaders we are pleased that the girls and young women that belong to Guiding at Portsdown are choosing to be active in the local community.

***Maria Calway-Kennedy***

## Scout Group Report

Scouting offers young people between the ages of 6 and 25 the opportunity to grow through badge work, the outdoors and the community and above all to have fun.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Portsmouth Scout Group meeting in the scout and guide HQ:

Beaver scouts 6 - 8 meet Tuesday 5pm to 6.15pm.

Cub scouts 8 - 10+ meet Wednesday 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Scouts 10+ - 14 meet Friday 7.30 pm to 9.30pm

Explorer scouts & Network scouts 18 - 25 Meet throughout the city

2007 was our centenary year and as such had many highlights. A particularly memorable experience was the SE Hampshire centenary camp on Hayling Island, where 55 members of our group joined hundreds of others to celebrate 100 years of scouting. The theme of the weekend was "Scouting past present and future". Although the weather was far from ideal, the beavers, cubs, scouts and leaders pulled together in true scouting style, to enjoy many activities ranging from woggle making to robot wars.

This year also saw four of our group leaders being awarded the prestigious Award of Merit by the Scout Association - a reflection of the unique spirit of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Portsmouth scout group, its members and supporters.

*Elaine Isaac*

## Deanery Synod

During the year the Synod welcomed three presentations and discussed the following agenda items:

Revd Paul Kennedy, Diocesan Advisor on Healing, spoke about our understanding of healing and wholeness.

Tony Blackshaw, Diocesan Director of Education, Head of Mission and Education for the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth gave a talk on "How we can engage more fully and strategically with our local schools".

Revd Wendy Kennedy, the new diocesan secretary, emphasised her willingness to support parishes at grass roots level. She stressed that the diocese is not a separate entity but is holding matters in coming and in trust with and for all parishes within the diocese. She mentioned the new structure at Peninsular House and their striving for mission, outreach, education and social responsibility.

**Deanery pastoral committee and deanery plan:** The deanery plan is foundational for the future ministry in this deanery. It formally set up the three parish partnerships to explore new ways of working together across boundaries. The DPC has used the plan as a basis on which to advise the synod, bishop and archdeacon. Significant changes in relationships have happened within the parish partnerships and the plan has brought

with it a sense of enthusiasm and creativity. The DPC will be looking to the parish partnerships for grassroots views about any future developments in the deanery. By 2015 stipendiary posts should be reduced by 2.5.

**Kairos and Parish Partnerships:** The next phase of Kairos will be "buildings" which will start after Easter with selected deaneries. Parishes with long-term building plans would not be delayed by this process.

**West of Waterloo development:** Outline planning permission has been granted for about 500 houses on the border of the parish. An ecumenical group has been meeting for the past three years under the leadership of the archdeacon, to monitor the impact this development might have on the deanery. There are aspirations for a parish worker and a church school on the development (possibly incorporating a worship facility). Discussions are underway with Southwick parish to incorporate this new development into the parishes of Purbrook, Waterloo and Denmead.

**Good Communities Conference:** this deanery conference was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 at Havant art centre to engage with local communities. One hundred community delegates attended.

**Environmental Issues:** Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth" was given to all deanery clergy by Andy Norris, Diocesan Education Advisor.

**Koforidua:** The Rural Dean, Revd Paul Moore, expressed his thanks to all parishes who, to date, have generously donated £3680 towards the palm oil, building and stipend fund projects.

**Lambeth Conference:** This takes place from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The deanery is asked to host 3 bishops and spouses. A deanery event is suggested for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Andy Minchin and Ros Molloy*