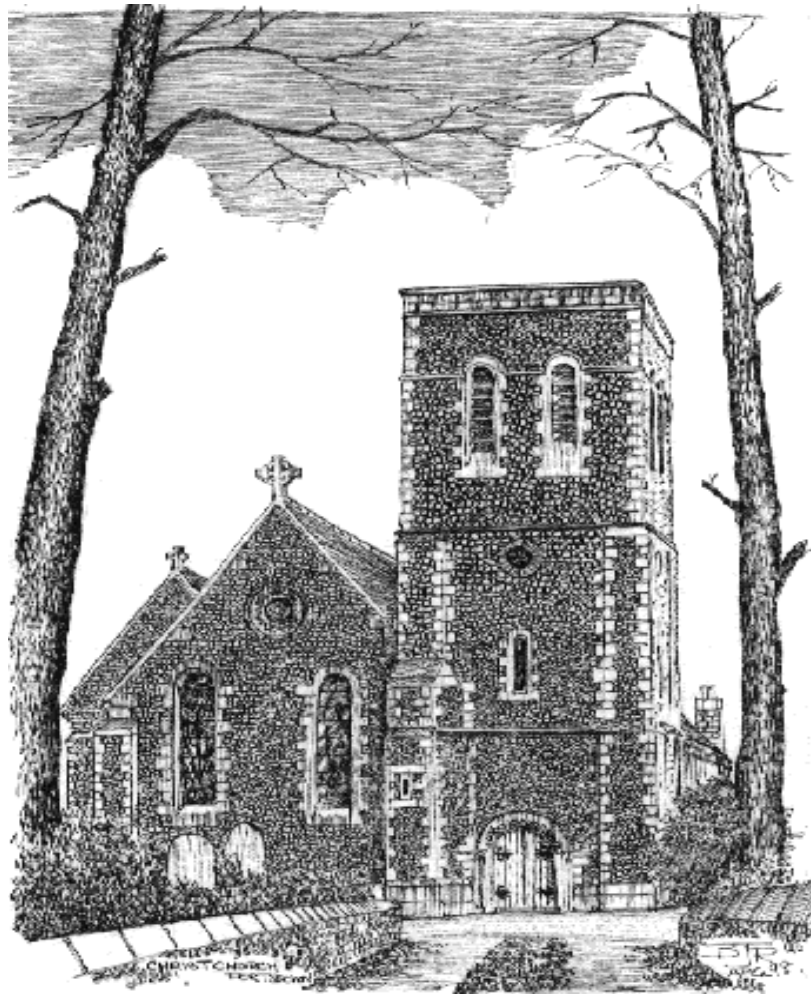


Christ Church Portsdown

Parish Year Book



April 2009

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2009

To be held at Christ Church on Thursday 2nd April 2009

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of church wardens
4. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 2008
5. Matters arising
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
 - c) Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
8. Parish Finances
 - a) Treasurer's report
 - b) To accept the examined accounts for 2008
 - c) To appoint the independent examiner
9. Election of 4 representatives to the Parochial Church Council
10. Date of the first meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council - Tuesday 14th April 2009
11. Appointment of deputy wardens and sidespersons
12. Chairman's remarks
13. Any other business previously notified to the chair
14. Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 3rd April 2008 at 19.30 hrs held in the Church Hall

1. **Opening Prayers:** Revd Andy Wilson opened the meeting with prayers and a reading from Hebrews 12.

2. **Present:** 50 parishioners were present

Apologies: Trevor Filtness; Pauline Metcalfe; Sheila Taylor; Reg Taylor; Nicola Olway; Tom Gibney; Emma Dove; Fiona Wheatley; Melanie Brown; Richard Brown; Jim Molloy; David Davies; Rita Drake; Michael Drake; Daphne Bevis; Julia Minchin; Linda Banks; Martin Baggs; Jackie Quinn.

3. **Election of Church Wardens:**

Two nominations were received:

Sylvia Fisher - proposed by Graham Olway, seconded by Sheila Taylor

Ann Davies - proposed by Rosemary Filtness, seconded by Colin Dove

Both were unanimously elected. Revd Andy Wilson thanked Rosemary Filtness for her service as a Church Warden and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

4. **Confirmation of APCM Minutes dated 22nd March 2007:**

The minutes were unanimously confirmed and signed as correct.

5. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

There were none.

6. **Electoral Roll:**

Jenny Whiteside (Electoral Roll Officer) reported there were currently 161 members (155 in 2007). Of the 161, 84 lived inside the parish and 77 outside. It was noted this was the first time in many years that the number within the parish exceeded those from outside.

7. **Parish Year Book:**

Revd Andy Wilson thanked Gill Cross and her helpers for producing the Year Book and gave an update on PCC activities over the past year. An extract from the PCC minutes was published each month in the Parish magazine to keep parishioners informed. Over the past year the PCC had been involved with the appointment of the Vicar, financial issues, various building issues and supporting the Friends of Christ Church. The PCC had agreed to instruct roof repair works to the church with effect from 6th May 2008 although further fund raising was still required. Following a recent break-in to the vestry, security had been improved but all parishioners were asked to be observant. Revd Andy Wilson also thanked all those involved with the church buildings, grounds and cleaning for the hard work they undertook.

8. **Parish Finances:**

Brian Mansbridge (Treasurer) presented the church accounts and explained details were given on the church website but were also available in hard copy format if required. The church accounts also included the accounts for the Parish Centre and the Friends of Christ Church. The planned roof repair works were expected to cost some £42,000 and whilst the works had been agreed only 50% of the funds were currently in place. Further fund raising was still needed. The yearly target of 10% of our tithe being allocated to Mission Giving had been exceeded (10.37%). The monthly income was approximately £5,000 but expenditure was just less than this, which is an improvement on the previous year. Overall giving increased in the last year and had benefited from several generous gifts and bequests but further funds were needed and an increase in income by 3% was needed. Gift Day 2008 was confirmed as 16th June. The church accounts were proposed by Colin Dove and seconded by Keith Fisher and unanimously accepted.

The appointment of an independent examiner for the church accounts was currently on hold due to Ann Davies's election as Church Warden. The matter was deferred and will be taken to the PCC for further consideration.

9. Election of PCC representatives:

Revd Andy Wilson advised that there were 5 vacancies on the PCC following Pat Cole, Philip Aspey, Pat Hatchard and Patrick Whittle finishing their terms of office. Thanks were expressed to all of them for their contribution over the last 3 years.

Nominations were received from the following:

David Fowler - proposed by Colin Dove, seconded by Ann Dove

Richard Hutchins, proposed by Sylvia Fisher, seconded by Graham Olway

Cynthia Whittle - proposed by June Ames, seconded by Sylvia Fisher

Graham Olway - proposed by Colin Dove, seconded by Alex Bell

As no other nominations were received all 4 were unanimously elected for a 3 year term of office. One vacancy for a PCC representative remained unfilled.

10. Election of Deanery Synod representatives:

Nominations were received for the following:

Ros Molloy

Andy Minchin

Both candidates were unanimously elected to represent Christ Church, Portsdown.

11. Date of next PCC meeting:

Tuesday 13th May 2008 7.30pm in the Upper Room, Church Hall

12. Election of Sidespersons:

Keith Fisher thanked all the people who had served as a Sidesperson for the last year. The following people had agreed to serve as a Sidesperson for a further year: Molly Ayling; Philip Aspey; June Ames; Linda & Roger Banks; Alex Bell; Pat Cole; Rita Drake; Keith Fisher; Ruth & David Fowler; Harry Horne; Pauline Letters; Brian Mansbridge; Pauline & Roger Metcalfe; John Partridge; Harry Rooke & Andrew Silk.

Ann & Colin Dove; Sheila & Peter Gill and Sheila & Brian King had asked to be removed from the Sidespersons rota since the last APCM. New volunteers for Sidespersons were always welcomed and anyone interested should contact Keith Fisher.

Thanks were also expressed to: Keith Fisher; Pat Cole; Philip Aspey; Colin Dove; Patrick Whittle & Ismay Doughty who had assisted as Deputy Wardens at church services over the last year. Stuart Davies had asked to be removed from the Deputy Wardens list due to his commitment to the Band and Pat Hatchard has kindly agreed to join the list of Deputy Wardens.

Revd Andy Wilson thanked Keith Fisher for all his hard work over the last 12 months.

13. Chairman's Remarks:

Revd Andy Wilson thanked everyone for their warm welcome to Christ Church for himself and his family. He then outlined what he saw as 5 purposes of the Church:

(i) Outreach - the church must be accessible to the whole community and both regular and occasional visitors. An Alpha Course was being organised for Thursday evenings starting on 8th May.

(ii) Worship - we need to bring pleasure to God and the way we worship matters. We need to consider what we hope to achieve and what styles of worship we want.

(iii) Fellowship - Social events are important and it is good to see they are well supported.

(iv) Discipleship - Teachings on a Sunday in Church are important but Home Group teachings are also important to widen our knowledge of God.

(v) Service - How do we serve the community around us needs discussion. The PCC will be having an Away day to look at this and how our church buildings can fulfil our need for service.

14. AOB

Nigel Wheatley gave an informative presentation on the Christ Church website (www.christchurchportsdown.org) and how it helps with the Kairos initiative of sharing knowledge across the cluster. The website contains details on both events and news about Christ Church as well as details on the other churches in our Kairos cluster. The Portsdown Post parish magazine had been further revised by Nigel Wheatley and each cover photo would be of a church event rather than the building

to emphasise the church was more about the people. A new initiative had also been arranged to record Sunday Services for those unable to attend and these were accessible from the website so that more people could feel connected with the church.

15. Closing Prayers:

Revd Andy Wilson closed the meeting with the Grace at 8.20pm.

CHURCH REPORTS

Introduction & Vicar's Report

2008 was my first full year at Christ Church. By the end of the year I no longer had the excuse that I hadn't taken any particular service before, so now I'm supposed to know what I'm doing! During the year we made some slight changes to our service structure. In February we introduced a monthly informal evening service. This has provided a more contemporary style of worship, which is sometimes loud and lively and sometimes quiet and reflective. In September, we increased the use of the band at our 10.30 services from two to three Sundays per month. Whilst some regret the reduction in the use of the organ, the majority appreciate the wide range of music offered by the band. It has resulted in a greater workload for Stuart Davies and the members of the band, but they have risen to the challenge. The music and worship committee have worked hard to ensure a good mix of music at every service; sometimes we get don't quite get it right, but we do try! Also in September we reintroduced choral Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer, which has provided a familiar setting for some to worship in.

In the summer Sandy reached the end of her four years as a curate in training, but I'm delighted to say that she has remained at Christ Church. Her ministry is greatly appreciated. Trevor and Rosemary Filtness left us, as Trevor became Curate in the parish of Farlington. We are grateful for their many years contributing to the life of our parish. Ann Davies replaced Rosemary as churchwarden alongside Sylvia Fisher. Their support has been invaluable, as has that of Keith Fisher working in the church office. It has been a challenging year financially, thanks largely to the need to repair the church roof. This we have done and paid for. Brian Mansbridge, our treasurer, does an excellent job of managing our finances, which has been very difficult this year as we have been so stretched. There are many others who work hard for the benefit of our church in many different ways. You will read about some of them in this Year Book, but others are very private and quiet about what they do. Thanks are due to you all.

Sadly, some of our church members passed on to glory this year, including Isobel Oakshatt, Kay Edmond and Irene Joly. They are all greatly missed. We also

remembered Phylis Bishop, a member of Christ Church until 2007, who died in Cheshire at the grand age of 103.

Towards the end of 2008 I met with some church members to discuss the future of our buildings. This will come more to the forefront of our thinking during 2009. It will be a challenging year in many ways, but we trust the Lord to lead us and provide for us.

Revd Andy Wilson

Alpha

During 2008 we held two Alpha courses in the Vicarage. These were attended by a total of 30 people who enjoyed some excellent food and the chance to look deeper at what the Christian faith is all about. There are plans to run a further course in 2009, so do speak to me if you would like to know more.

Revd Andy Wilson

Homegroups

Our five homegroups continued to meet fortnightly throughout 2008 led by Cynthia Whittle, Dave Fowler, Sandy Phillips, June Ames and Pat Cole. The groups meet on four evenings and one afternoon. Subjects covered included Miracles and what it means to be a Healthy Church. During Lent the groups met weekly. If you would like to join a group then do speak to me or to one of the group leaders.

Revd Andy Wilson

Pastoral Visitors

We are fortunate to have a group of people who can visit those unable to get to church co-ordinated by Sandy Phillips. The group has met a couple of times to discuss issues arising. There is also a lot of informal support that takes place within the church family and Sandy, Cynthia or I take Communion to those who would like to receive it.

Revd Andy Wilson

Church Wardens Report

The past year has been busy, challenging and fun - with a very steep learning curve for Ann who started as a warden this year and, having been a member of the congregation for 38 years, was amazed at how little she knew! We would both like to thank you for all the help and support we have been given during the past year in so very many ways, which has meant a great deal to us.

Andy, Jacqui and family are now so much part of our lives and have worked extremely hard to help us grow and develop into the 21st century, and the younger influence of Dan and Ben seems to be encouraging other teenagers. We have been welcomed into their home on many occasions, but particularly for 2 Alpha courses run by Andy and Jacqui, ably supported by Sandy, which have been very instructive and thought

provoking in an unchallenging way. It has also enabled us to get to know each other better with stimulating discussion and lovely meals. If you have not yet had the experience we would encourage anyone to attend a future course when it is arranged. Social events for our Church family have included some delicious Lent lunches, candlelit supper, bangers and mash and skittles, a harvest supper with plenty of home-grown entertainment, a barbecue for Isobel Booth-Clibborn and Shiisa at Widley farm, hosted by Joss and Linda Cleeve - which was thoroughly enjoyed despite the weather. The Summer Fete and Advent Fayre were well supported and the Roof Appeal and Friends of Christ Church have both been rewarding.

Our Church services continue to grow with new ideas and Nigel records all 10.30 am ones for housebound members or those who wish a reprise. The worship service on the third Sunday evening is innovative and well established, and we have instituted traditional evening prayer on the fourth Sunday on alternate months.

Sylvia and Ann are most grateful for your continued support and look forward to future fellowship.

Sylvia Fisher and Ann Davis Church Wardens

Mighty Youth

The Christchurch youth group meets most Sunday evenings from 6 to 8pm at the vicarage. The members are teenagers from school year 9 upwards, and we meet for friendship, fun and Christian teaching. On the third Sunday of the month, members are encouraged to attend the informal evening service and afterwards gather at the vicarage until 8pm.

Highlights of 2008 include a visit from Susan Barry of Christian Aid who got us thinking about the living conditions of people in other parts of the world, and a trip to the temporary ice-skating rink in Southampton. Mighty Youth members successfully applied for a Youth Opportunities Fund grant with which we purchased the stacking stage blocks in the Church Hall.

Jacqui and Andy Wilson

Junior Church

We meet in the church hall on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month at 10.30 a.m. during school term time. Working in three age groups or all together, we make use of craft, drama, stories, cookery and music to learn about the bible and our church calendar. We welcome new members.

Posada was definitely one of our highlights in an eventful year. It enabled Mary, Joseph and a donkey to travel with us and enrich our celebrations both at home and at church, where the three special visitors joined junior church for our Christmas party lunch.

Jackie Quinn

Report on Financial Stewardship and Gift Aid 2008

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. 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 to the church by (currently) £2.50 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 you do not pay enough tax to cover this (particularly if you have retired from work). If you feel that this applies to you, 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.

Based on the donations made in 2008, we have submitted claims to the Inland Revenue for £10,435, a significant element of income for the church. As this is all "free money", I urge you to sign up if you are taxpayers and have not already done so. 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" pigeonhole in the church.

Roger Banks

Electoral Roll

The total number on the electoral roll is 170. Of these 81 live outside the parish and 89 live within the parish. After many years of half and half representation there are now more on the electoral roll within the parish.

Jenny Whiteside

Church Fabric

An inventory or terrier which lists all material parts of the Church needs to be constantly monitored and, as part of this process, in July 2008 we had our quinquennial visit from the Archdeacon, the Ven Trevor Reader. He and the Rural

Dean, Rev Paul Moore, toured the Church and grounds with the Vicar and Ann to check that we had everything on record and all was in good condition.

The main work undertaken was the roof repair, for which we obtained a faculty (permission from the Diocesan Advisory Committee) in March, and the work was satisfactorily carried out between May and July and, as a security measure appropriate items have been marked with SmartWater to identify ownership.

Church wardens

Reader's Report

Having a lighter load has been a novelty but valued, not least by Patrick when I am able to sit beside him in a pew! I continue to preach or lead a service once a month, take an occasional funeral, look after a Home Group, take some Home Communion, contribute to Portsdown Post, and liaise with the 'Good News' Travelling Library to keep our greetings card box supplied.

Cynthia Whittle

Friends of Christ Church

Our successes this year have included a talk by Andrew Perrin on the 'History of Widley & Purbrook'. Entering the church and grounds into the 'Portsmouth in Bloom' competition was duly rewarded with a second prize for 'Place of Worship' and also 'Best New Entry'. We have also been able to donate £1,000 towards the cost of roof repairs.

Management Committee

Friday Fellowship

We meet between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Church Hall on the 1st and 3rd Fridays. Thanks to helpers there is always a warm welcome and cup of tea. Sharing experiences among friends old and new may evoke happy memories, laughter, or empathy and provide relief from less congenial situations. Highlights included the Strawberry Tea and Christmas lunch but 'regulars' appreciate the fellowship every Friday afternoon.

Cynthia Whittle.

Hall Management

This committee of six normally meets at 11 am, monthly, on a Wednesday in the Upper Room. We oversee the management of the hall and its environs, including the car parks and area around the Scout and Guide headquarters. The manager and cleaner are grateful to volunteers helping with maintenance and the user groups who cooperate by following our guidelines. Now that bookings can be checked on the website hiring will be promoted to enable income to keep pace with necessary expenditure on upkeep. In 2008 use of the hall for church activities was <10%, community use <20% of availability.

Income from lettings was £13,448 and expenditure amounted to £12,926. Vandalism, wear and tear impact decorations, drains, fabric, floor, fences, furniture, heaters, roof and windows, and these all required some attention. The rear car park was improved using funds collected for the purpose; the toilets were tiled and redecorated, as was the porch, small hall and passage. We have new demountable staging in the hall, purchased by a sizeable grant obtained by the youth group. We ask church members to help preserve this valuable facility of Christ Church Hall and to make it known in the PO6/PO7 community.

Patrick Whittle (Chairman)

Music Group

The music group meets as required, usually the Saturday afternoon before the Sunday service. We exist to provide appropriate music for the services and various other events we may be asked to play at.

The highlight from 2008 is moving the mixer deck to the rear of church to enable us to provide a more balanced sound.

Stuart Davies

Christchurch Singers

The singers meet at 1900Hrs on Fridays in the church. Their purpose is to provide assistance with the singing during services. The highlight of the year was the carols by Candlelight service.

Eric Tewsley

Parish Web Site, Portsdown Post, News Letters and Cards

The magazine, web site and cards at Christmas and Easter provide a means of getting information to many members of the Church and also a way of reaching out to the broader community. In 2008 we introduced the "Listen on-line" service - this enables people who are not able to get to Church to listen to the services either on-line via our web site or via a CD. We have two regular "CD" listeners with others on an occasional basis and a number of "hits" on the recordings on our web site each month.

In 2008 our Parish magazine was runner up in the "Best improved magazine" competition run by the Diocese. With over 140 parishes in Portsmouth Diocese this was a tough competition so a great success to make it as a runner up.

We provided the wedding service booklets for all the weddings held at Christ Church during 2008 generating an additional small income to help off-set other costs.

In October we moved to a new service provider for our web site to allow consolidation of the listen on line service into the site. During the year we published 12 issues of Portsdown Post, printed and delivered two cards incorporating a Parish News letter, to all the houses in the Parish, produced over 100 CDs with recordings of our

services, created 4 wedding booklets and during the last 3 months of 2008 our web site averaged 2,400 visitors every month.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed articles to the magazines and news letters, especially to Andy, Cynthia, Patrick and Charlie. Special thanks to all those unsung heroes in the folding and delivery teams and to Fiona and Lindsay for proof reading of my suspect editing work.

If you don't get a regular copy of the magazine then sign up now, if you have Internet access visit us on-line at <http://www.christchurchportsdown.org>.

Nigel Wheatley - Webmaster

Mothers Union Report

Christ Church Portsdown branch of the Mothers Union meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month (except August) in the church hall at 2.15p.m. We are one of the largest branches of the mothers union in the Portsmouth diocese having a membership of 34, including four indoor members. Sadly two of our members, Isobel Oakshatt and Kay Edmond, died during the year. We welcome Pat Ferrier into branch membership.

We meet for worship and fellowship and also to carry out the purpose of the Mothers Union, which is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life. To this end we actively support services, projects and functions within the Havant deanery and Portsmouth diocese.

During 2008 our branch has enjoyed speakers on a wide variety of topics including talks on the "Apostleship of the Sea" and "Havant Miscellany". We held our AGM in January and summer and winter terms commenced with a service in church. Our annual outing was a great success, the weather being very kind to us. We held a successful coffee morning in May. One highlight of 2008 was an informal but extremely interesting talk by Ellie Mulvaney of "Street Pastors". A wonderful example of practical Christianity in action.

Sheila Taylor

Flower Stewards

We are a small group of flower arrangers, and in addition we are fortunate to have a number of loyal helpers who come and assist at weddings and church festivals. We all enjoy the fellowship of working together with flowers in our church for the glory of God.

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside

Parish Prayer Group

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 10am at 40, Hillside Avenue. We have half an hour of prayer for the needs of our parish, followed by some excellent

coffee and homemade biscuits. We hope more members of Christchurch will join us for this vital part of parish life.

June Ames

Sanctuary Guild - Church Cleaning (Mops and dusters brigade)

This group of six volunteers meet, when they can, at 10.30ish on a Wednesday morning to clean the church

Ann Dove and Ros Molloy

Rusty Cutters

2008 has been a very exciting and successful year; firstly because of the very welcome extra assistance of the volunteers on the working Saturday mornings, secondly, because this clearly assisted us in achieving two prizes in "Portsmouth in Bloom". Please may I take this opportunity to thank all those who gave so generously of their time. I would also like to say "thank you" (on behalf of the parish) to those who gave valuable equipment for the work.

Colin Dove

Sidesmen Report

The church sidesmen consist of volunteer ladies & gentlemen who assist the wardens during the main Sunday services & at additional services during Easter & Advent. They greet visitors to the services & give out pew sheets & service books as required. They also assist the wardens during collection & ensure the church is tidy after each service. Although we lost some volunteers last year we are now up to 19 people on the rota. Many thanks to those who have joined us and to all who have assisted so cheerfully over the last year

Keith Fisher

Mission Support

Members of this committee each represent one or more organisation. We meet 3 or 4 times per year, but this is a fraction of the input by many others. In 2008 the PCC approved our TORs, which prioritise "promotion of support through prayer, action and giving by church members or others, for Christian mission, to the furtherance of the Kingdom of God at home and abroad". We identify monthly free-will offerings; arrange poster displays, pre-service audio-visual presentations and literature distribution afterwards. This year we invited Isobel Booth-Clibborn, Hellen Ogwal and Carolyn Headley to speak.

We recommend allocation of the parish tithe to specific outreaches with an evangelical basis and praise God that in 2008 our targets were exceeded, enabling nearly £11,000 to be given to the following causes: -

Christian Aid (£2,903), Tearfund (£949), Church Mission Society (£890), Children's Society (£791), Scripture Union (£333), Barnabas Fund (£242),

Mission Aviation Fellowship (£257), VIVA (£250), Seafarers Mission (£235), Fishermen's Mission (£235), Bible Society (£234), Simeon's' Trustees (£232), Send-a-Cow (£178), Life Words (£113), UCB (£50) with a further £645 to other individuals or appeals, and many gifts in kind.

Letters of appreciation and accounts of progress are encouraging but news of the loss of an MAF aircraft and pilot, piracy on the high seas, warfare in the Middle East and famine in Africa highlight the ongoing need. During this period of global economic hardship, it is clear that our help is still required, both locally and further afield. A long-term goal is to be able to support some potential mission candidates from our parish, so as we know the need we pray that anyone the Lord is calling will be responsive to that call.

Patrick Whittle (Chairman)

Traidcraft and Fair Trade

Christ Church has continued to support Traidcraft throughout the past year, despite the economic climate. Our sales have again been well over £1000. Dramatic changes in currency exchange plus the increased costs in transport have meant that there have been some price increases but increased sales have also meant that some prices have decreased. New suppliers and projects have been added, which has led to the introduction of new items, such as curry sauce, chutney and new flavours in the ever-popular Geobars.

The highlight of the year has to be the "Fairtrade service" at the beginning of Fairtrade fortnight, when a floating banana illustrated the vicar's quiz on bananas and his sermon on the biblical basis of Christian giving.

Gill Cross

Men's "Early bird" Breakfasts

We have now completed the seventh year of The Men's Breakfast. We had eight breakfasts in the course of the year: seven were held in the Church Hall, and one, in October, at The Centurion Public House, Crookhorn, where ten men from Christchurch joined around seventy other men from the churches in this area for "The Big Breakfast." This may well become an annual event.

The numbers attending each breakfast continue to hold steady, the average being generally over twenty. We have had a variety of speakers talking on many interesting subjects.

As always our continued success is due to our dedicated team of ladies who prepare the food for us throughout the year. We thank them very much for their efforts on our behalf. It couldn't work without them.

A further eight breakfasts are planned for this year, the dates of these can be found on the Christchurch website. Invitations with your name on will be left at the back of the church nearer the date. Should any men wish to join us who have not received an invitation, spare forms are left at the back of the church. Please

complete the form by the due date, and leave in the "C" pigeonhole at the back of the church, or contact me. We would be very pleased to see you, and you would be made very welcome.

Pat Cole

Portsdown Toddler Group

Time: Wednesday 9:45am-11:30am term time only

Function: A meeting place for mothers, babies & toddlers offering a large variety of toys & activities for the children, and allowing the parents some adult company.

Highlight: 2008 Christmas party with the church crib service and a visit from Santa.

Amanda Kind 02392 351532

Evening Wives Group

The Group meets at 7.45 on the second Wednesday of the month at the home of a member of the group.

The Group aims to provide, for members from a wide age group, a varied programme that includes speakers, quizzes and occasional outings.

Jacqui Shotton

Guiding at Christ Church

Girl guiding UK enables girls and young women to develop their potential and to make a difference to the world. The aim of guiding is to help girls and young women develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.

1st Portsdown Rainbows meet on Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm; leaders Nicola Blofield, Becky Hodges, Kathleen Blofield

Rainbows have fun! They take part in games and activities as part of their programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw. Everything a Rainbow does helps her to develop and to think for herself, in a safe girl-only environment. Rainbows are from five to seven years. Over the past year, Rainbows have enjoyed trying out some new crafts and games this year and especially had fun at their Easter bonnet competition.

Portsdown Brownies meet on Thursdays 5.45pm-7pm Leaders: Becky Hodges, Kathleen Blofield

Brownies have fun! Their meetings are full of challenges, games and activities, usually ones that the Brownies have suggested themselves. Brownies are from the age of seven to ten years. A highlight this year has been the trip to the Kings theatre to see High School Musical. The Brownies also enjoyed taking part in a Christmas show for parents and friends at the Headquarters.

1st Portsdown Guides meet on Thursdays 7.15-9pm. Leaders : Maria Calway-Kennedy, Vilma Cooke, Lynne Meechan, Martha Burrows

Being a Guide is all about learning new skills, making your own decisions and having

fun. Guiding provides a safe girl only environment to explore new possibilities and achieve personal goals while making friends and having adventures. It's up to each Guide to work out which opportunities are relevant for her, whether it's improving her football skills, party planning or learning about independent living. Guides are between the ages of 10-14 years

A highlight this year was our camp at Foxlease in the New forest, girls took part in activities including: canoeing, high ropes course and campfire cooking. Portsdown guides also travelled to Birmingham to attend the national guide event - Big gig **1st Portsdown Senior section** Thursdays 7.15-9pm ; Leaders Maria Calway-Kennedy, Angela Raby, Laura Hudson

In the Senior Section, young women participate in a fun and flexible programme known as Look Wider. The programme is linked to a variety of recognised qualifications or awards, both within and outside guiding. The opportunities and challenges can be followed by a group or by individual members and are designed to be particularly beneficial to girls getting ready to embark on a career. Senior Section girls are from 14 years.

A highlight this year was that seven members of the group have obtained their full bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award which included an expedition to the New Forest with a theme of researching tourism. Girls are now planning their activities for their silver and gold awards.

Maria Calway-Kennedy - Guider

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 72nd Portsmouth Scout Group meet in the Scout & Guide HQ.

Beaver Scouts	6 - 8 years	meet Tuesday	5:00pm to 6:15pm
Cub Scouts	8 - 10½	meet Wednesday	5:30pm to 7:00pm
Scouts	10½ - 14	meet Friday	7:30pm to 9:30pm
Explorers	14 - 18	meet Friday	7:30pm to 9:30pm
Network Scouts	18 - 25	meet throughout the City of Portsmouth	

2008 was another busy, adventurous year for our Group with each section having many highlights both in their section meetings and elsewhere. The Beavers have enjoyed meeting other Colonies for City events, the Cubs had a particularly successful 'Olympic Games' camp in Sussex with many medals awarded, whilst the Scouts and Explorers 'Underground' camp near Bristol created many treasured memories.

As well as continuing to succeed with their badge work all sections have taken part in many of the City competitions, camps and events.

Contact **Elaine Isaac** on 02392 343247

Deanery Synod

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

Susan Barry from Christian Aid gave an excellent and informative talk. She said C.A. is successful because it gives value and self-worth to those receiving help, and as such is fully in accordance with the message in the Bible i.e. that of love and support for the poor.

Revd. Stephen Girling spoke on 'Growing Leaders', a course developed by the Church Pastoral Aid Society which was running successfully in the Fareham deanery.

Revd. David Lloyd spoke about "Stewardship". He explained the wider sense of stewardship as one that fulfils God's mission to find disciples and proclaim God's Kingdom.

Revd. Gareth Denby spoke on Chaplaincy in Further Education. The national Synod desires a chaplaincy team in every college. We have four vacant posts in our diocese. The deanery pastoral committee will consider what can be achieved.

Deanery Pastoral Committee

Revd. Paul Moore, the rural dean, reported that there is a good balance of representatives from all 3 partnerships. He explained that the Bishop consults the Rural Dean and the lay chair of the DPC. as regards vacancies and pastoral needs. The DPC. plan stipulates the loss of one stipendiary post by 2015.

Pre-Lambeth conference

Revd. Ann Leonard reported that a well organised and entertaining day at the cathedral for the 10 Bishops was a success.

Christchurch Deanery Synod Representatives - Andy Minchin and Ros Molloy

Kairos

Buildings. The first phase of exploration has begun in individual parishes. This will be followed in the summer by a partnership phase and will conclude at deanery level in the autumn when all the findings will be discussed.

C3 listening project. The Synod supports the parishes of Hart Plain and Cowplain for Kairos funding for 3 years for the above project.

Messy Church. The strategic grant for M.C. has been awarded. This will enable a move into the next phase of discipleship training.

Koforidua

Angela Herring updated us. The target for the Palm Oil Project of £3,680 has been achieved and the palms are being harvested and a profit of £370 had been made.

Half of the £3,300 needed for the stipend project has been raised. The office project has not yet started. Parishes give £50 or more annually to support this work.

Christchurch Deanery Synod Representatives - Andy Minchin and Ros Molloy