

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2010

To be held at Christ Church Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010, 7.30pm

## AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of church wardens
4. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 2009
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 2009
  - c) To appoint the independent examiner
9. Election of 5 representatives to the Parochial Church Council
10. Date of the first meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council –  
(Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010)
11. Appointment of deputy wardens and sidespersons
12. Report: Christ Church Good Neighbours
13. Chairman's remarks
14. Any other business previously notified to the chair
15. Closing Prayer

## **Christ Church, Portsdown: Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting on 2nd April 2009 at 19.30 hrs held in the Church Hall**

1. **Opening Prayers:** Revd Andy Wilson opened the meeting with prayers and a reading from Psalm 105.

2. **Present:** 46 parishioners were present

**Apologies:** Reg Taylor; Nicola Olway; Fiona Wheatley; Dunkan Wheatley; Ann Davies; Michael Drake; Daphne Bevis; Andy Minchin; Julia Minchin; Margaret Baggs; Martin Baggs; Harry Horne; Dave Fowler; Ruth Fowler; Godfrey Joly; Jacqui Wilson; Richard Hutchins; Sheila King; Rosemary Nisbet; Rev Sandy Phillips; Brenda Hadley; John Hadley

3. **Election of Church Wardens:**

Two nominations were received:

Ann Davies – proposed by Rita Drake, seconded by Sheila Taylor

Ismay Doughty – proposed by Ann Davies, seconded by Nigel Wheatley

Both were unanimously elected. Revd Andy Wilson thanked Sylvia Fisher for her service as a Church Warden and presented her with a gift of flowers. Sylvia Fisher thanked everyone for their prayers, love and support during her service as churchwarden.

4. **Confirmation of APCM Minutes dated 3rd April 2008:**

Proposed by Nigel Wheatley and seconded by Ismay Doughty, 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 170 members (161 in 2008). Of the 170, 89 lived inside the parish and 81 outside. It was noted this was the second consecutive year 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 approving repairs to the church roof; writing terms of reference for each sub-committee; registering as a Fair Trade Church; discussing the relationship with the Cathedral; holding an away day for PCC members to consider the mission of the church and its strengths and weaknesses; and various buildings issues.

A report on the church goods, fabric and ornaments was included within the Parish Year Book.

Revd Andy Wilson informed the meeting that Sandy Phillips, Ros Molloy, Andy Minchin, Sheila King and himself were all members of Deanery Synod and that the PCC received reports from each meeting.

## **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 main message was of sincere and grateful thanks for all the contributions made which had resulted in £41,256 being raised to fund the church roof repair costs. Thanks were also expressed to Sheila Gill for her help in making grant applications that had produced over £10,500 in grant payments. Thanks were also expressed for the £1,000 contribution made by the Friends of Christ Church. Brian Mansbridge explained that whilst the church assets showed £365,806, it should be noted that £360,000 was the valuation of the church hall. Furthermore, the £10,000 loan from the account of the Buildings Development Project would be repaid once all the 2008 Gift Aid income and VAT refund had been received.

The yearly target of a 10% tithe being allocated to Mission Giving had been achieved, even with the roof repair costs needing to be found. Further funds were needed and an increase in income by 4% was needed, i.e. each church member contributing an extra £1 per week or for bequests/donations to be made by church members. Gift Day 2009 was confirmed as 21st June. Following response to a question about parish share payments for 2008 being less than 2007 (in fact the parish share was greater, but because the final payment of 2008 was held over until January 2009, the accounts did not reflect that), the acceptance of the church accounts was proposed by Patrick Whittle, seconded by Pat Cole and unanimously agreed.

Brian Mansbridge confirmed that Ron Tweed had acted as the Independent Examiner for 2008 and was proposed as the Independent Examiner for the church accounts in 2009; seconded by Nigel Wheatley. Revd Andy Wilson reported that Ron Tweed had written to the PCC expressing his admiration and thanks to Brian Mansbridge for all his work on the church accounts.

Pat Cole & Daphne Bevis were thanked for their help with the counting and banking of the weekly church collection. Daphne Bevis had advised the PCC she would be standing down from that role after many years service and the meeting was informed that anyone who felt they could help should contact Pat Cole.

## **9. Election of PCC representatives:**

Revd Andy Wilson advised that there were 4 vacancies on the PCC following Pauline Metcalfe and Jackie Quinn finishing their terms of office, Cynthia Whittle stepping down and there being an existing vacancy. Thanks were expressed to all of them for their contribution over the last 3 years or more.

Nominations were received from the following:

Vicky Stephen – proposed by Ros Molloy, seconded by Gill Cross

Sylvia Fisher, proposed by Graham Olway, seconded by Brian Mansbridge

Pat Cole – proposed by Sheila Taylor, seconded by Sylvia Fisher

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

## **10. Date of next PCC meeting:**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.30pm in the Upper Room, Church Hall

## **11. 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, Roger & Linda Banks, Alex Bell, Pat Cole, Rita Drake, Keith Fisher, David & Ruth Fowler, Peter & Sheila Gill, Harry Horne, Pauline Letters, Brian Mansbridge, Roger Metcalfe, John Partridge, Andrew Silk and Jenny Whiteside.

Harry Rooke, June Ames and Pauline Metcalfe 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, Dave Fowler and Pat Hatchard who had assisted as Deputy Wardens at church services over the last year. Pauline Metcalfe has kindly agreed to join the list of Deputy Wardens from the end of April 2009 when she ceases to be a sidesperson.

Keith Fisher proposed the above appointments and Cynthia Whittle seconded – all were unanimously appointed.

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

## **12. Chairman's Remarks:**

Revd Andy Wilson spoke on how he wished to look ahead as a church and the activities that each month would bring.

May – Revd Andy Wilson would swap one Sunday service with the vicar from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn;

June – Gift Day;

July – Summer Fete;

August – Holidays;

September – 'Back to Church Sunday' – encouraging everyone to invite someone extra to a church service;

October – Children's Holiday Club in Church Hall;

November – Remembrance Sunday;

December – A repeat of the Mexican Posada tradition and a representative of the Church Army to speak at a Sunday service

The addition of Church Army and Portsmouth Street Pastors to the Mission programme were welcomed.

Revd Andy Wilson also referred to how Christ Church can progress the buildings development and its link to the 'Kairos Buildings Phase'. Clear communication to all involved and the wider community on progress was essential. Revd Andy Wilson concluded by saying there were lots of challenges ahead but he thanked God for his calling to Christ Church.

## **13. AOB:**

An update was requested on when toilets in the church would be provided. Revd Andy Wilson confirmed the provision of toilets was a key element of any future building development.

An update was requested on whether the sound system for the singers in the choir stalls had been improved to allow the singers to hear the service leader. Revd Andy Wilson advised that this was still to be resolved.

**14. Closing Prayers:**

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

## **CHURCH REPORTS**

### **Introduction and Vicar's Report**

I guess 2009 could be viewed as a fairly uneventful year in the life of Christ Church. There were no great crises and not much changed. Sometimes we need time like that, so that we can simply get on with being who God wants us to be. So what did we get up to? Highlights include the children of Purbrook Infant & Junior Schools singing to us at the Candlelight Supper in February; the Women's World Day of Prayer service in March; the Confirmation of Jo, Matt & Holly Duckett, Kester Doughty and Natalie Mauger at Waterlooville in April; the Annual Dedication Service for Cosham Rotary & Inner Wheel in August; the baptism by immersion of Nicola Howard at Crookhorn in September; the Harvest supper in October; the largest congregation seen for many years at Christ Church on Remembrance Sunday and the four Carol Services for Purbrook Park School in December.

It is good to have the support of Sandy Phillips & Cynthia Whittle in the leading of services and preaching. Ismay Doughty took over from Sylvia Fisher as church warden alongside Ann Davies at the APCM. Sylvia had provided an important stability during times of turmoil and change. Ismay and Ann continue to work hard in often unseen ways. Our finances were more stable in 2009 and we are grateful to the work that Brian Mansbridge puts in as treasurer to keep us afloat. There is a great team of people working at Christ Church – the challenge for us now is to find the people to step into the gaps that are appearing as some folk need to give up tasks that they have carried out, in some cases for many years.

Some members of our church family passed on to glory this year, including Brian King (former churchwarden), Paul Quinn, Cyril Charlesworth (former treasurer) and Joyce Osborne. They are all missed.

2010 brings further challenges. Finance looks like being a challenge again and the need to improve our buildings remains. Looking further ahead the Diocese is considering the provision of ministry, which could have an impact on Christ Church in future years.

In all this we must remember that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). It is in him, and not in ourselves or in one another, that we place our trust.

**Revd Andy Wilson**

## **Homegroups**

Our five homegroups continued to meet fortnightly throughout 2009 led by Cynthia Whittle, Dave Fowler, June Ames, Pat Cole and Jacqui Wilson, who took on the leading of the Wednesday afternoon group during the year. The groups meet on four evenings and one afternoon. Groups looked at the letters of James and Peter and during Lent met weekly to follow a course produced by CMS. 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. 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. Towards the end of the year Sheila Gill took on the role of Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and we are looking at ways of developing the care that we provide.

**Revd Andy Wilson**

## **Deanery Synod Report**

New Area Dean (previously known as the Rural Dean)

At the end of September the Area Dean, the Revd Dr Paul Moore, completed his term of office and his place was taken by the Revd Jonathan Jeffery who is the new Area Dean.

During the year presentations were given on the following subjects:

Christian Aid by Susan Barry.

Mission and Discipleship in the Diocese by Revd Canon David Isaac.

The work of the Ministry team at the Portsmouth NHS Trust at Queen Alexandra Hospital by Revd Ann Lindsay.

The Workings of the General Synod by Sue Rodgers.

Koforidua

Angela Herring gave an update on the Koforidua projects. She expressed her gratitude to all parishes for having financed such ambitious projects.

1<sup>st</sup> project – Palm Oil plantation:

The plantation is thriving and out of the more than £3,000 for the Palm Oil project, £2,000 had now been sent, which paid for a pump, housing for a labourer/security guard and some equipment for the oil production.

2<sup>nd</sup> project – Stipend fund:

Koforidua has now raised over £2,000 themselves over the past 3 years, not a small feat considering that priests' wages are around £20 a month. The Deanery promised to match this with £3,300 and over £3,100 has now been sent to the Koforidua Diocese.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> project – Diocesan Offices:

The Diocesan offices are currently in temporary accommodation, no plans for a fundraising drive as yet though.

### West of Waterlooville Development

The Archdeacon Dr Trevor Reader gave an overview of the West of Waterlooville situation: An inter-faith group still meets and will continue to do so, even though building has slowed down considerably. The plans for a church school and a community worker financed by all churches still stand. Trevor welcomed Revd Phil Amey, who has been appointed at St John's Purbrook, the parish that was to be in the middle of the new estate. However, Southwick Estate are unwilling to change their parish boundaries and with those legalities remaining unchanged, the new estate would be looked after by Southwick parish. Southwick has offered co-operation with the ministers.

### Finances:

Tony Rice-Oxley, Chair of the Havant Deanery Finance Committee, congratulated parishes for a 100% payment of parish shares. The Diocesan Synod agreed a 4.9% increase in parish shares for 2010 which, due to the Average Weekly Attendance figures for our Deanery, translate to a real increase of 4.29% for each parish.

### Strategy for Ministry for Mission:

The Deanery is considering the application of different Ministry models to see how they may be relevant at the local level for consideration by the Diocese in April. These have been explained in Pompey Chimes and are called:

- Ministry Team
- Group Ministry
- Community Model
- Minister Model

### Kairos Buildings Phase

Various clusters are preparing their plans for the next phase of Kairos.

### Vacancy-in-See

Diocesan representatives reported on their progress during the appointment of the new bishop.

### **Andy Minchin and Ros Molloy, Deanery Synod Representatives**

### **Christ Church Choir**

The Christ Church Choir meets in the church at 7pm on Friday evenings. The contact names are:-

*Sopranos:* Nickie Marriott    *Altos:* Jenny Whiteside    *Tenors/Bass:* Eric Tewsley

The choir supports all Evensong services and selected communion services.

### **Eric Tewsley**

## **Electoral Roll**

The total number on the electoral roll is 171. Of these 80 live outside the parish and 91 live within the parish. After many years of half and half representation there are now more members on the electoral roll from within the parish.

**Jenny Whiteside**

## **Friday Fellowship**

Inevitably, old age and infirmity affects some of those who have been long time regulars for our Friday afternoons in the hall, and we miss those who are no longer with us. The chats, laughter and sharing are always valued by each person, as are those who "also stand and serve" or "fetch and carry" for our bi-monthly afternoon get-togethers. This year we also met informally during August and the Christmas tea-party was an enjoyable innovation.

**Cynthia Whittle**

## **Reader's Report**

With the Bishop's "Permission to Officiate", my semi-retirement means that normally I assist, and also preach, about once a month in Christ Church.

I take some home communions, funerals, and an occasional Wednesday Morning Prayer, or service in another church when required. Leading the Tuesday Home Group, the Friday Fellowship and writing regular articles in the Portsdown Post are on-going commitments. I have preached in a neighbouring church on their CMS Sunday, joined fellow Readers at a fellowship tea and a supper evening and reviewed books for the national "Reader" magazine. My encouragement continues to be the spontaneous words of appreciation I receive from those to whom I minister.

**Cynthia Whittle**

## **Financial Stewardship and Gift Aid 2009**

How can you help your church financially without it costing you any more money? Well, you can gift aid your donations to the church. Many of you do so already and, for that, we as a church are very grateful. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim back the tax from the Inland Revenue, effectively enhancing your gift to the church by (currently) £2.82 for every £10.00, **at no additional cost to yourself**. You do not have to commit to a regular payment, although this does help us as a church to plan our expenditure.

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), or maybe you do not pay tax but you have a partner who does. If you feel that this may apply to you, please contact me and I will be able to advise you as to how you may be able to help. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, please contact me for details of how gift aiding can actually be a financial benefit to yourself.

Based on the donations made in 2009, we have submitted claims to the Inland Revenue for **£11,344**, which is a significant element of income for our church. As this is all “free money”, I urge you to sign up to our gift aid scheme if you have not already done so. Please contact me for more details about gift aiding and/or our regular payment scheme.

My address is: 24 Park Avenue, Widley, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 5DW, telephone number: 023 9237 0735. If you wish, you can leave a note for me in the “B” pigeon hole in church.

**Roger Banks**  
**Gift Aid Administrator**

## **Christ Church Flower Stewards**

We have six stewards responsible for the flower arrangements during the year. We very much appreciate and could not manage without the team of volunteers who assist at weddings, Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We would welcome any newcomers to join the team.

**Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside**

## **Friends of Christ Church Portsdown**

The Friends of Christ Church Portsdown (FOCCP) are a group of people who appreciate the importance of the building and grounds to the community, and who want to conserve it for future generations.

The committee meet around 4-6 times a year and, on average, hold 2-3 social events. One of our most enjoyable occasions this year was a guided walk on Portsdown Nature Reserve.

We can be contacted via our membership secretary, Mrs Pauline Metcalfe by email to [foccp@christchurchportsdown.org](mailto:foccp@christchurchportsdown.org)

**Pauline Metcalfe**

## **Hall Management Committee**

This committee meets monthly (at 11 am on a Friday, in the Upper Room) to oversee the management of the church hall and its immediate environment. During the year we used the opportunity of improved entrances and a change of manager to modify access arrangements for regular and occasional users.

Church members or other users can help our manager and cleaner by care for facilities and equipment, respect for guidelines and leaving the rooms tidy.

Maintenance costs - services, heaters, drains, electrics, doors - were covered by income from private hire while 6 small folding tables and a small water heater were purchased. The old rear fence (behind the scout and guide HQ) was completely replaced. If the level

of income is maintained we expect to be able to make further repairs and some necessary improvements.

**Patrick Whittle (Chairman)**

### **Mission Support Committee**

This committee meets annually to recommend which missions are supported by Christ Church and we recently published a pamphlet describing these. We also meet intermittently to ensure that church members are kept informed of mission news and activities. We are thankful for prayer, activities and giving in 2009 enabling £8500 donations to a range of mission causes including, for the first time, Church Army and World Vision. In 2010 we plan to maintain this level and, as well as gifts in money or kind and writing to mission partners, we would also like to give more practical help to any church member who feels called to full-time or part-time mission work, either locally or overseas.

**Patrick Whittle (Chairman)**

### **Men's "Early Bird" Breakfasts 2009**

Eight breakfasts were held during the year, at six-weekly intervals with a break in August for the holidays. The attendance has remained steady with about twenty men attending each breakfast, but not the same twenty each time. We are now in the ninth year of the Men's Breakfasts and its continued success is due mainly to the dedicated team of ladies who prepare and serve the food for us. Thank you ladies for the wonderful job you've done for us over the years. It couldn't happen without you.

As the breakfasts have remained popular, a further eight are planned for 2010. This year's dates can be found on the church website.

Normal invitations are sent out three or four weeks in advance of the date. If you would like to come to a Breakfast but have not received an invitation, spare invitation forms are left at the back of the church, just fill one in and put it in the "C" pigeon-hole.

**Pat Cole.**

### **Mighty Youth**

The Christ Church youth group meets most Sunday evenings from 6pm to 8pm at the vicarage. The members are young people from school year 9 upwards, and we meet for friendship, fun and Christian teaching and discussion. 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 2009 include selling Krispy Kreme donuts at the Summer Fete and the purchase and supervision of a bean-bag game for the Advent Fayre. Since September the members have been taking responsibility to run the sessions, volunteering either singly or in pairs to prepare an activity for a specified week. We also like to help out the wider

church when we can, for example serving and washing up at the Candlelight and Harvest Suppers.

**Jacqui and Andy Wilson**

### **Music Group**

The Christ Church Musicians usually meet in church the Saturday before the Sunday service. Contact is Stuart Davies.

The musicians provide the music for services as chosen by the Worship Committee. January's informal evening service led by the "Mighty Youth" showcased the talent they possess.

**Stuart Davies**

### **PARISH PRAYER GROUP**

We meet at 10 am on the first Thursday of each month at 40 Hillside Avenue and pray for 30 minutes for the needs of our parish, followed by fellowship over coffee and biscuits. We are slowly growing in numbers and would welcome any who are free on a Thursday morning to join us.

**June Ames**

### **Sanctuary Guild – Church Cleaning ( Mops & Dusters Brigade )**

We clean the church on Wednesday mornings, from 10.30 am. There are six very busy volunteer cleaners – Wendy, Joan, Anya, Val, Ros & Ann. We should not forget Nancy, who launders the Altar & Communion Linen.

If anyone wishes to join us, we would welcome you with open arms, or a duster.

**Ros Molloy & Ann Dove**

### **The Rusty Cutters**

We meet every Wednesday morning at 10 am until noon at the church, also on additional Working Saturday mornings as detailed in the Parish Magazine. We maintain the Church Yard, cutting grass, pruning shrubs, repairing fences and bird boxes.

This year we won prizes in both "Portsmouth in Bloom" and "South & South East in Bloom" competitions and received Colas grant of £300 towards the maintenance of the Scots Pines along the church driveway. New volunteers are always welcome.

**Colin Dove**

## **Scout Group Report**

Scouting offers young people between the ages of 6 and 25 the opportunity to grow through a progressive badge scheme, the outdoors, the community and above all by having fun.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Portsmouth Scout Group meets 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 Monday	7:30pm to 9:30pm
Network Scouts	18 - 25	meet throughout the City of Portsmouth	

During 2009 the 72<sup>nd</sup> Portsmouth Scout Group continued to grow. All sections having many highlights both in their weekly meetings and elsewhere. In September we were the largest Group at the City of Portsmouth Camp, having 68 members participating. The activities ranged from being part of human table football, having giant snakes and reptiles to hold, and creating fake wounds to the more traditional scout activities such as climbing and archery, as well as much much more. A fantastic weekend was had by all.

All sections have taken part, successfully, in many City competitions and events as well as making considerable progress with Challenge and Activity badge work.  
Contact Elaine Isaac on 02392 343247

**Elaine Isaac**

## **Christchurch Toddler Group**

We meet every Wednesday during term time in the Church Hall, the session starts at 9.45 till 11.30.

The person to contact for information about the group is Mandy Kind on 02392 351532.

The group provides free play for children, and company for mums, with refreshments provided.

The highlight from 2009 has to be the Christmas party, with a trip up to the church for a crib service, and a visit from Santa.

The toddler group has a very healthy attendance and all the people who attend really enjoy it, and I also enjoy running the group, and look forward to another busy year.

**Mandy Kind**

## **Girl Guiding UK at Portsdown**

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and the Senior Section have had an active last 12 months! The Rainbows have been busy with arts and crafts activities and learning about what being a Rainbow means. The Rainbow Guider, Nicola, has decided to leave the unit shortly to focus her time on raising her two small children. We are pleased that Kathleen

has decided to take on the unit from February onwards and we are currently looking to recruit an additional helper.

The Brownies have taken part in many activities in the winter term, including the Egyptian badge which involved dressing up as mummies using toilet roll, having a go at Egyptian dancing and writing in hieroglyphics. The Brownies have also enjoyed developing their cooking skills and undertaking different crafts. Recently they have been working towards our Water Safety Badge.

The Guide unit has also undertaken a variety of projects and activities which have included our annual Guide camp at Sandy Acres near Shedfield, winter weekend and the ongoing Gardening project. The girls have planted and painted over a period of time the external area around the HQ which is now more useable for all the groups meeting at the Hut.

Fun activities included giant knitting with broom handles and rope, outdoor cooking and the development of life skills including problem solving and communication activities.

Girls have also supported their community. This has included raising funds for the church at the summer Fete and Advent Fayre and also for guiding overseas through running an Island Café following a church parade to raise money for Guides in other parts of the world which do not have the same resources as we have in the UK.

The Girls also took part in bag packing for Sandy Acres, a new building for the Guide campsite at Shedfield before Christmas and raised over £600 in one day!

Girls in the Senior Section have been working on their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, with expeditions and the skills sections of the Award being completed. One of our young leaders, Laura Hudson, was chosen to take part in a Gold Expedition to Nepal. This was an incredible opportunity and Laura has given a presentation to the girls on her experience.

Within the Senior section the girls plan their own programme with the support of leaders, activities chosen by the girls have focused on fitness with swimming sessions and also a trip to the Pompey joggers for a gentle run around the streets of Portsmouth.

In September, we joined with other girls from the area to begin our centenary celebrations. A full day of activities took place at Fort Purbrook, with space hopper football (you had to be there) and team challenges enjoyed by all. We were pleased that Cynthia and Patrick Whittle from the Church community were able to attend and support us on this special day.

Our centenary celebrations continue for the next few months, with a finale celebration on 20.10.2010 at 20.10 when we will be joining with other girls once again for the renewal of our Guiding Promise at Waterlooville Precinct.

We could like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support for Girl guiding in Widley.

**Maria Calway-Kennedy, Vilma Cooke, Lynne Meechan, Nicola Blofield, Becky Facey, Kathleen Blofield, Angela Raby, Laura Hudson, Martha Burrows, Steph Jones**

## **Sidesmen's Report**

The Sidesperson team is made up of volunteers from our congregation who assist the Wardens at the church during the main Sunday services and at additional services during festival periods such as Easter and Advent. They give out the pew sheets, service booklets and hymn books as required and greet all visitors to the services as they enter the church. They assist the Duty Wardens during the collection and during communion and ensure the back of church is left tidy after each service. The team consists of 19 volunteers at the moment, if you want to help out in this important task please speak to Keith. Many thanks to all of you who have assisted so cheerfully over the last year.

**Keith Fisher**

## **Evening Wives Group**

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the homes of members.

We decided in 2009 that we would continue meeting in spite of low membership numbers, and would run our programme of speakers etc as a Committee, with Jackie Shotton as our spokesperson.

This is working out well and we have enjoyed the social events and company throughout the year.

Last Summer our outing was to Chichester Planetarium where we had a lecture by an eminent astronomer.

We would welcome new members to join us and are always pleased to have visitors for an occasional meeting.

**Jackie Shotton**  
**Secretary to the Group**

## **Mothers Union Report**

We have 32 members who enjoy fellowship twice a month in Christ Church Hall at 2.15pm on the first & third Tuesdays of the month ( except August ). We are also part of the wider Mothers Union fellowship within the Portsmouth area, which enables us to meet each other at Branch, Deanery & Diocesan functions / meetings. These take place at various venues within the Deanery / Diocese. Out of a very varied and interesting programme during 2009 one highlighted session took place in the church on the 21<sup>st</sup> April when the service took the form of the original order of service in 1955 for the dedication of two stained glass windows to celebrate the Queen's Coronation and The Mothers Union. The original Order of Service was retyped and framed in memory of one of our long-standing members, Isobel Oakshatt. The framed Order of Service was unveiled by Isobel's son, John. New members are always welcome, please do contact Sheila Taylor if interested.

**Sheila Taylor**  
**Branch Leader**

## **Churchwardens Report**

The last twelve months have been a steep learning curve as a newly appointed churchwarden. I have been blessed to have had tremendous support from Ann, Andy, Cynthia, Sandy, Keith, Sylvia and Brian, to name but a few who have given me advice, answering my numerous questions, guiding me and keeping me on track. Thank you, love Ismay

This year has as ever been busy under Andy's direction and leadership. The church building, church hall and churchyard continue to be maintained by teams of keen volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure their upkeep. A very big thank you to all involved, you know who you are. We are delighted that Jacqui Wilson is involved in overseeing the hall as the new hall manager. The churchyard, whilst maintaining its natural beauty particularly with the snowdrops and crocuses, continues to be trimmed, mown and weeded by the dedicated and hard working "Rusty cutters".

Our links with Kairos have seen us involved in several social events this year, namely the Strawberry Tea in summer and The Race Night in November hosted by St. Georges Waterlooville, the latter raising £200 for the Rosemary foundation. Both were thoroughly enjoyed by those able to attend. This provided a valued opportunity to share fellowship with those in our cluster.

As a church we have also linked with our community enjoying the summer Fete at Purbrook Park School and the Advent Fayre in the church hall, both well-supported and great fun. A new initiative – The Neighbourhood Lunch – has proved to be a wonderful opportunity to reach out into the community sharing a meal as well as fellowship.

Other social events for our church family have included the Candlelit Supper where we were thrilled to be entertained by Purbrook Infant and Junior School choirs, Lent lunches with a wonderful array of delicious soups, including some interesting ingredients. The Harvest Supper included entertainment from many talented members of our congregation.

Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> June saw the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day with a special service in church where we welcomed the France and Germany Star Association, members of the Armed Forces from Southwick Park, the Royal British Legion and our own uniformed organisations.

We continue to be blessed as we worship in a variety of different ways during our services, either informally or more formally. We continue our journey with God through 2010 focusing on "The Purpose Driven Life" this Lent, may God strengthen us, keep us focused on his word and as we face the challenges ahead, continue to help us share responsibilities and support one another.

**Ismay Doughty and Ann Davies**

## **Junior Church**

We meet in the church hall on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 10.30 am during school term time.

Working all together or in 3 age groups we use a mixture of craft, stories, cookery, music and drama to learn about the Bible and our church calendar.

This year we were delighted to welcome 5 new young members who came to join us after the 'Awesome' Holiday Club which was held during October half-term.

**Jackie Quinn**

## **Traidcraft Report**

Takings are down this year by about £400 but there is a very positive reason for this in that several of the venues where we have run stalls in the past have now become Fair Trade/Traidcraft establishments in their own right. This includes at least two schools and a college so it is very encouraging. Prices of some goods have had to rise because of the difference in the exchange rate. On the other hand, new producers have become involved and there is an increased range of products. The curry sauce has been very popular and this month a peach and ginger jam has been added and can be highly recommended!

**Gill Cross**

## **Parish Website, Portsdown Post, Newsletters, Cards And Service Audio Visual Support**

The magazine, website 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.

Late in 2009 I asked Andy to find a new editor for the magazine. My work commitments mean I have less hours available and, so, handing over the magazine editorship would free time for other activities. Regretfully, no-one has stepped forward to take on the role, so I am now looking at how it can be "job shared".

In 2008 I introduced the "Listen on-line" service and this continued until October 2009. This service enabled people who are not able to get to Church to listen to the Sunday service either on-line via our website or via a CD. The service continued until October when a lack of hours in the day forced its suspension. I hope to restart this once a new magazine editor can be found.

In 2009 we continued to provide a service to wedding couples to prepare and print their service booklets. This generates an additional small income to help offset other printing and publication costs.

Our website continues to attract visitors from across the globe and provides us with a means of getting key information out to both parishioners and a broader group of people.

In 2009 the PCC took a different approach to the parish Christmas card by linking it with the "Christmas starts with Christ" campaign and using a professionally printed postcard.

Great work by Roger Banks meant we got the bus stop poster into a local shelter to help make the connection.

During 2009 we started to make much more use of audio visual support during the services and we now have a small team helping with this activity. My thanks to Anna-Marie Malcolm, Jacqui Wilson and Andy Minchin for stepping up to help – if you would like to join us please do make contact. The appeal for a new screen and projector system is still in place and I hope we can make more progress in 2010 towards getting this funded.

The magazine continues to be a key method of communicating with the wider community – with over 300 copies distributed each month by our band of dedicated volunteers. My thanks to everyone who has contributed articles, especially to Andy, Cynthia, Patrick, Charlie and those people who produce items for the “About Us” series. 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  
Publications**