

2008 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual Meeting of 22 April 2009

*This Report offers a picture of a year in the life of
St Peter's, Tadley / St Paul's, Tadley / & St Luke's, Pamber Heath.*

*Our parish life involves us in worship, prayer, fellowship and ministry,
and also in a concern to reach out, with compassion and joy, to the wider community.*

*This involves a number of faithful people in a multitude of tasks.
We are grateful to all who take on any form of responsibility or duty
that enables our parish to continue in this task of Christian ministry.*

*As you read this report please recognise
how we are prayerfully seeking to be good stewards of all our resources,
in people, in practical expressions of our faith, and in our financial obligations.*

A Year of Hope, Prayer & People

The Year in Review

Any year in the life of our parish is a busy year and 2008 was no exception. There were all the regular services and some very special ones, as well as people involved in the many tasks that help the parish to be a worshipping, praying fellowship reaching out in caring and love into the wider community.

As the year began so we were nine months into the fundraising for repairing the leaded windows in St Luke's. The end of January saw a coffee morning and a quiz night to this end. This with many other events, including the previous year's Gift Day, meant that we were able to close the fundraising efforts at the April Annual Meeting, just twelve months on from its launch. Such a wonderful achievement and a credit to all involved, especially Anne Hutchison who inspired everyone into action. Around mid-year we were pleased to see the work commence and there's every possibility that it will be completed around Easter 2009.

For those who attended there was a very notable Day of Prayer held in St Paul's at the end of April. This was part of the Diocesan Day of Prayer. Our own day was beautifully and thoughtfully prepared by Christine Watson. It closed with a Celtic Communion led by Bishop Trevor Willmott, who made us the ninth and last church he visited in our area on that single day.

June was notable for two special occasions. The first was the Licensing of Revd Canon Ken Batt as an assistant Priest (part-time) on to the staff of the Benefice. He has been great news for Silchester, where he lives and conducts much of his ministry. He has also been great news for the whole Benefice as his presence has greatly lessened the pressures all round. It means that Peter and Pat are more able to be present at services and events in this parish, as well as Ken occasionally being present in one of our churches.

The second notable event in June was a special service of thanksgiving for William Hunter's progress, celebrating his fourth birthday. Held in St Luke's it was just over ten months on from William's initial diagnosis with leukaemia. It was so good to see him bright and cheerful, though we still continue in our prayers for him as his treatment continues.

Here are just a few of the other highlights of the year in which we have been involved.

- ◊ HOPE 08: an inter-church series of events for the whole of Tadley, culminating in united worship on August Bank Holiday Sunday.
- ◊ An 'eat as much as you can' Ugandan Supper in St Luke's, where we heard of the experiences of Christine & Bryan Watson from their visit to a church project there.

- ◊ The second winter of 'Tea 4 All', the monthly Sunday afternoon tea leading into a service in St Paul's at 5pm.
- ◊ A very wet Palm Sunday, especially for the Walk and open-air Eucharist in Silchester, which was moved into the church.
- ◊ The Good Friday Walk of Witness and United Worship, on the same day as a very well attended Children's Easter Workshop.
- ◊ Two Parish-led services at Bishopswood Court for the residents.
- ◊ Work on the boundary fence at St Luke's, opening up the visibility along the road.
- ◊ Confirmation BBQ for the candidates and families of those confirmed the previous November.
- ◊ Special services that attract more than just our regulars: Mothering Sunday worship, Harvest Festivals, Shoebox Celebrations, The All Souls' Service of Memories, Christingle & Gift Services, Tadley School services, Crib and Carol Services.
- ◊ Special events that similarly attract many from beyond our immediate circle: Summer Fete, Christmas Fayre, Cream Teas (wet this year, but nonetheless enjoyable), Coffee 'n' Company, Coffee mornings and Mini Markets.

(Further details of many of these events are included later on in our Parish Life reports)

From the above, one service to make special mention of is the afternoon Carol Service for handicapped young people, with their carers and parents. For the sixth consecutive year the pews in St Paul's Church were moved to accommodate wheelchairs, and the residents of Peach Cottage, in particular, enjoyed this annual celebration. It was lovely to have members of Tadley Guide Company helping by welcoming those who attend, operating the overhead projector (to give extra visual input), reading the lessons and handing out refreshments at the end. It is hoped that in future years others - perhaps those who prefer not to go out in the darker evenings - may join this simple service.

Details of yet more activities can be found by turning to the Parish Life section later on in this report. We are indebted to, and sincerely thank, the faithfulness and commitment of all who are willing to be involved in so many ways in our parish life.

PCC Proceedings

The Church Council has a membership of 18 and met six times during the year with an average attendance of twelve. During these meetings regular reports are received on Finance, Fabric, Special Events and other meetings.

At the January meeting Council members had the opportunity to meet our newly appointed architect, Mr Andrew Plumridge. Important business included

- ◊ applications for faculties to dispose of the pianola in St Paul's Church and to put in hand repairs to windows in St Luke's Church.
- ◊ Preparations to apply for a faculty to re-arrange St Paul's Lady Chapel as 'an oasis of prayer'.

It also dealt with new boundary fencing for St Luke's Car Park and arrangements for Children's Workshops.

(See reports elsewhere from our Churchwarden and Youth Co-ordinator for more details.)

Statistics

Church Electoral Roll

Since the Annual Meeting in 2008, two names have been added to the Electoral Roll. The total number of names on the Roll as at 31 December 2008 was therefore 113.

Church Attendance

A table setting out some of the regularly recorded statistics can be seen opposite. The figures are based on the national church returns using the October averages for average weekly attendance. Comparisons are given over a four-year period, though a full trend can only be gauged over a much longer period.

Pastoral Services

The parish is privileged to be involved at major moments in people's lives and hidden within these figures are real people. Some of the events are joyful celebrations, others reflect deep sadness. We continue to offer our prayers in all such situations, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who are sad and hurting.

Statistics for Mission 2008

These totals include all three churches: St Paul's, St Luke's & St Peter's

Festivals

	Year	Communicants	Attending		Year	Communicants	Attending
Easter	2004	112	141	Christmas	2004	150	515
	2005	91	119		2005	149	605
	2006	87	133		2006	148	499
	2007	112	133		2007	159	461
	2008	93	110		2008	152	563

Church Attendance in October

Over all three churches - Figures submitted for National Statistics

	Year	Adults	Under 16yrs
Harvest	2004	89	38
	2005	99	24
	2006	125	46
	2007	100	33
	2008	88	24

Average Weekly Attendance Over 'Ordinary' Weeks in October

Over all three churches

Year	SUNDAYS		WEEKDAYS	
	Adults	Under 16yrs	Adults	Under 16yrs
2004	80	14	18	15
2005	66	4	15	11
2006	62	10	19	15
2007	70	10	29	16
2008	64	10	5	--

Other Notable Occasions

Either or both churches

	Adults	Under 16yrs		Adults	Under 16yrs
Mothering Sunday	72	18	Patronal Service St Paul's	43	0
All Souls	59	4	Patronal Service St Luke's	35	6
Carols (Disabilities)	45	7	Patronal Service St Peter's	47	0
Crib Service	240	87	<i>(Including 11am & 6pm)</i>		

Pastoral Services

The Clergy and Parish Reader have been involved in:

32 Baptisms, 3 Thanksgivings for the Gift of a Child;

2 Marriages; 1 Prayer & Dedication of a Marriage (Blessings);

and ministering to the bereaved through 33 Funerals

(some in our Churches, others in the Cremation Chapels at Basingstoke or Thatcham,
with some of the Church services concluding with Burials in Tadley Cemetery)

Finance

Our Parish Share 2008 - £50,011

Last year the Parish Share we were asked to pay to Winchester Diocese was £50,011. This pays for our incumbent, clergy housing, training, pensions and Diocesan, General Synod and Archbishops' Council administration.

Unfortunately our income has been insufficient in recent years to pay in full the requested Parish Share, as well as paying for all repairs, refurbishments, utility bills, upkeep of services and the general running of our three churches, so we have underpaid by £6,000 each year. In 2008 this left us with £44,011 to find and we had real problems trying to pay even this amount. Next year it is to be increased by 5%. Our failure to meet our Parish Share commitment is very serious indeed and could result in the loss of our incumbent, or other changes in the future.

A number on the PCC, indeed on the Basingstoke Deanery Synod, are not happy with the way the Parish Share is calculated and our Treasurer has been to meeting after meeting to put our case, but has had no success in changing anything. However, there is change on the horizon, but how this will affect us remains to be seen.

The full Accounts for the year may be found by turning to the last section of this Annual Report.

We continue to be grateful to our Treasurer, Sylvia Yemm, whose accounts have been held up as a good example for other treasurers both within and beyond the Deanery.

Gift Aid Summary

During 2008 our planned giving donors have risen from 83 in 2007 to 88 in the year 2008, these donations being received through the bank, by the free-will envelopes and annual donations to church funds.

The number of regular donors this year has remained steady, we have however welcomed more new donors than those required to replace the number who have regrettably departed in various ways. Of these donors, the donations from 77 have been made through the Gift Aid scheme enabling the PCC to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue. The number of donations by visitors to our churches being made in Gift Aid envelopes has continued at a steady level.

The total tax reclaimed over the year was £7,081.28 compared to £10,202.90 in 2007 when £3,497.72 was reclaimed against donations to funds including St Luke's windows and St Paul's door.

The amount reclaimed from the Inland Revenue on planned giving and Gift Aid envelope donations to the church over 2008 was £6,923.92 compared to £6,548.60 in 2007. A further £150.36 was reclaimed on gift-aided donations made for projects including St Luke's windows and Church Mission Society.

Fabric

All three churches continue in reasonably good condition thanks to the efforts of volunteers undertaking routine maintenance jobs, for which the Parish is extremely grateful.

Larger tasks undertaken this year include the following;

- ◇ The refurbishment of St Luke's windows, now nearing completion. Congratulations are due to all those involved in the raising of funds for this project.
- ◇ The provision of new altar frontals, chalice veils and bookmarks for St Luke's church.
- ◇ The continuing making of pew runners for St Peter's church.
- ◇ The creation of a "children's chapel" in St Paul's church, including the building of a table and the making of a cover for this.

Thanks are due to our sidesmen, cleaners, flower arrangers and all the unsung heroes without whom our churches would find it very difficult to operate.

Once again we give thanks for God's provision for us: for all the places in which we meet, and for the ability to maintain them as places of worship and witness. We also give special thanks to Vic Latson who, since April, has been our only Churchwarden, as we have had one unfilled vacancy.

Disability Discrimination Act

Wherever possible our buildings comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. Hearing loops, designated parking and large print literature are in use. Work is ongoing in the installation of handrails for assisted access.

Risk Management

We continue to monitor and evaluate the risks to which we are exposed, following an action plan agreed by the PCC.

St Paul's Church Hall

The hall continues to be a valuable asset in the church's contacts with the local community. It is the focus for the organisations listed below and is also well used for Church events.

Non - church organisations_

- ◇ St. Paul's Pre-School.
- ◇ Pamber Forest Rainbows.
- ◇ 1st Tadley Guides.
- ◇ Tadley and District History Society.
- ◇ St. Paul's Ladies Group.
- ◇ The Good Companions.
- ◇ Daphne Bennett School of Dancing.
- ◇ Innovations Jazz Orchestra.
- ◇ Private hire

Church events

- ◇ Mini - Markets
- ◇ Coffee & Company
- ◇ Strawberry cream teas
- ◇ Summer Fete
- ◇ Christmas Fayre
- ◇ Harvest Supper
- ◇ Afternoon Teas
- ◇ Tea 4 All
- ◇ PCC meetings
- ◇ other social occasions such as Quiz Nights

Community Outreach

On an informal basis, members of our congregation visit anyone they know of in need of some company, in their own homes, or in Care Homes or hospital. The North Hampshire Hospital, our local hospital, dispensed with the services of volunteers who had for some years regularly manned their Help Desk, but three of our church members serve on the Hospital Chaplaincy Team, while another helps patients who attend Hospital Chapel worship.

At Christmas time, a group joined the Hospital Carol Service and went around the wards carol singing, whilst another group led informal worship at Parklands.

We also have a volunteer helping at Heather House (Seeability); volunteers with the Citizens Advice Bureau and on the list of Crosslink helpers; while others are involved in chauffeuring and helping at the Ambrose Allen Day Care Centre.

Local Schools

Tadley Community Primary School has invited Peter and Pat to lead worship at assemblies for the whole school on a regular basis. There have been visits to St Paul's and St Peter's churches by groups of children from Tadley School, **Bishopswood Infant** and **Tadley Horizon School** when they came to find out what makes these buildings special.

At Christmas, Key Stage 2 children from Tadley School held their annual Gift Service with a Nativity Play in St Paul's Church and also a special service commemorating Palm Sunday and Easter. In July, at the end of the academic year, school leavers and their parents from **Bishopswood Junior School** used St Paul's Church for a special service and the older children from Tadley School held a service about "moving on".

Elizabeth and Barry Seymour have been invited into Bishopswood Infant School once each term to lead worship at an assembly.

Peter is also ex-officio Foundation Governor of **Silchester CE Aided Primary School**. As such he is involved in Governor and sub-committee meetings on a regular basis. Until June he also attended the school almost weekly to lead worship assemblies, but that has now been taken on by Revd Ken Batt since his arrival in June. Both Peter & Ken are key links between School & Church in Silchester for organising special joint Sunday worship at occasional times through the year.

Child Protection

It is necessary that all who work with children or vulnerable people are cleared to do so by the Criminal Records Bureau. In our parish we have 28 people who have this clearance and who are authorized to act as Parish Visitors and/or work with children and young people. This includes helping with Children's Workshops and Tadley Youth Drama.

We must all be re-assessed every 5 years and, as Parish Representative, I will be seeking to re-apply, as required, for those who care for others in this way. There is no financial cost to individuals because the application costs for volunteers are paid by the Diocese. We are grateful to all our visitors and children's workers, not only for helping as they do, but also for undertaking the rather time-consuming task of completing the Clearance Applications.

Deanery Synod

This report covers the two Deanery Synods that occurred following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2009. The Parish representatives are Myles Ridley, Steve Parkhurst and Christine Watson. Christine is the Deanery Synod Secretary, as such she also takes minutes at Standing Committee meetings.

At the first meeting in June the new Area Dean, Andrew Bishop, took the chair and group discussions considered strengths and weaknesses of parishes, in the hopes of gaining helpful insights from each other.

A second meeting took place in November 2008. As a continuation of the 'Together on the Way' theme, Synod representatives were asked to bring along their Mission Audit findings and address the following points:

- (a) What we want to celebrate and
- (b) Where we need help.

The Lay Chairman told the meeting that among other things the Deanery has the capability to

- ◇ influence Parish Share;
- ◇ influence areas of organisation and clergy allocation;
- ◇ set up special interest groups (such as Readers, Youth workers etc.) and
- ◇ set up stronger relationships with non-Anglican churches.

It is in the process of reorganising itself to better meet the challenges ahead, especially the Parish Share issue, which will be agreed at Deanery level from 2010.

See the fuller report in the Parish Life section.

Our Rector, Canon Peter Cooper, continues to act as Assistant Area Dean and is a member of the Deanery Synod Standing Committee, that also deals with

business as the Deanery Finance Committee and Deanery Pastoral Committee.

The Future

The whole world has been affected by what in mid-2008 was being called the 'credit crunch', but which has since evolved into a full international financial crisis. Our national economy, people's livelihoods, personal savings and our trust in banks and other financial institutions, have all been shaken. We hear of charities being severely affected and the church is one of those charities.

Already we have noted our inability to pay our full Parish Share, though it could be argued that we, as a benefice, are being asked to pay too much. We have also had the increased power utility bills that everyone has had to face. So, although finance is only the means by which we are enabled to conduct the mission of the church in this parish, we cannot ignore the pressures that lack of money creates.

A year ago we noted we had to grasp this nettle of our parish finances, yet this is still something we have to do. We therefore have to put our parish financial situation firmly on the agenda for 2009. This, though, is not for any reason of 'wanting to get rich', it is in order that we are able to continue with our God-given mission in Christ's name.

Much of what is set out in this report is how, in 2008, we set about that mission, and we know that the best is yet to come, for that is inherent in the hope of our faith.

Towards the end of 2008 there were two events to give us inspiration for the future. The first was the Diocesan Conference looking at how we are involved in 'Our Calling Under God'. The second was the School of Ministry that Peter attended, seeking to encourage all believers to open themselves to 'The Father Heart of God', deepening their relationship with the God who loves. In 2009, and beyond, these two elements must become increasingly a part of our on-going life.

Our purpose, and therefore our intention, is to become more and more a community growing in faith. So our vision for 2009 is to enable each one of us to deepen our relationship with God.

We are called to be a praying, worshipping people, reaching out in the power of the Holy Spirit to love and care for others, living the Gospel and sharing the good news. This is the essence of our God-given mission. This is the agenda that God has set before us, for this coming year and for every year. We need to set our sights high, expecting God to be working graciously and powerfully among us.

On behalf of the PCC

The Revd Canon Peter Cooper

Chairman of the PCC
Rector of the United Benefice

CONTRIBUTIONS

This report could not have been compiled without the work of, among others:

Revd Pat Brown
(PCC Secretary)
Reports on Community Outreach & Local Schools)

Jane Pitfield
(Minutes Secretary)

Vic Latson
(Churchwarden)
(The Report on Fabric, Goods & Ornaments and St Paul's Hall Lettings)

Barry Seymour
(Electoral Roll Officer)

David Yemm
(Gift Aid & Stewardship Secretary)

The accounts have been prepared by
Sylvia Yemm
(PCC Treasurer)

Tom Monfries
(Independent Examiner of Accounts)

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM
AND TO MANY OTHERS
NOT JUST FOR SUBMITTING REPORTS
BUT FOR ALL THEIR
TIME, ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THANK YOU

We give thanks and praise to God
for all that He is able to do
among us and through us.

We are also indebted to the many
volunteer helpers and leaders who are
involved in our parish life.
Much of their work is behind the scenes
rather than visibly up-front.
If you are part of this invisible army,
whether or not your area of work is
referred to in these pages, thank you!

Every member,
not just the leader or office-holder,
is God's gift to the Church.
You make an invaluable contribution,
through your individual gifts and skills,
to the life of our Christian fellowship.

Your presence is indispensable, not just
within the churches of this Parish
but in our ministry to the
Parish as a whole.

Again - Thank You!

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Revd Canon Peter Cooper
The Rectory, The Green, Tadley RG26 3PB
0118 981 4860 / peter.cooper@xaltmail.com

Resident Priest in Silchester:
The Revd Canon Ken Batt
0118 970 2353

Honorary Assistant Priest:
The Revd Mrs Pat Brown
0118 981 6109

Reader : Mrs Wendy Alder
0118 970 0538

Churchwarden: Vic Latson
0118 981 5451

PCC Treasurer:
Sylvia Yemm - 0118 981 1725

Enquiries to hire St Paul's Hall:
Vic Latson - 0118 981 5451

Parish Website
stpaulstadley.org.uk

PARISH LIFE

Prayer, Evangelism, Education & Fellowship

Prayer Fellowship Group

The Prayer Fellowship Group has met each month on the second Monday from 11.45am to 2.00pm throughout the year. During this time members have met to pray together in one another's homes. A member of the clergy usually leads the prayer time, beginning with prayers for those present, followed by individuals leading a few minutes of prayer, sometimes silently. Those who meet together in this way always welcome new members and include requests for prayer on behalf of others. Members find the sense of shared companionship and the time of quiet reflection away from the busy-ness of daily life both encouraging and comforting. Every meeting ends with the sharing of good food, lively conversation and much laughter.

Wendy Capel

Day of Prayer: 26th April 2008

In April this Parish joined in a Diocesan Day of Prayer at St Paul's Church. As visitors arrived they were greeted with flower arrangements outside the church, candles in the porch and the church furniture moved to create seven prayer bays and a comfortable quiet space for reading. These used pictures, readings, lighting and other symbols to give focus for thought and prayer.

After an opening period of shared mediation and reflection visitors - parishioners, people from other churches and 'no' church - were free to come and go and spent as much or little as they wished. Refreshments were available throughout the day. We were grateful to Bishop Trevor who, after sharing in the Prayer Day at eight other churches, was happy to lead a Celtic Communion to end our day.

Thanks to those who helped set up, particularly Bryan, and to those who helped clear away. Most especially thanks to those who came. We hope that you found peace, prayer and renewal.

Christine Watson

HOPE for Tadley

In January 2008 an ecumenical prayer meeting was held at the Emmanuel Centre. This was organised by Samantha Taylor, a former Pathfinder and member of St Paul's congregation, to galvanise Tadley folk into getting involved in the National Christian initiative of HOPE 08. We considered possibly holding events at various times of the year and decided on holding a series of events on the Summer Bank Holiday weekend.

At first we considered hiring a marquee - an Event in a Tent - but costs and uncertainties about weather drew us to deciding on the use of the Tadley Community Centre.

Barry Woodward, a former drug addict and dealer, who is now a Christian with a ministry in prisons, was invited as a speaker, and a programme that contained a mixture of fun events and evangelistic messages for all ages was put on.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a band night for teenagers with a tuck shop, refreshments and live music. On Saturday morning there were children's games, activities and crafts, followed by a presentation on drug awareness for parents and others in the afternoon. Barry Woodward was the main speaker at the evening meeting with a live band providing music.

Sunday began with United Worship with Barry preaching. In the afternoon there was tea with gentle music provided by harps and Tom and Mary Monfries. This was very popular with older members of the community. Sunday evening gave the final opportunity to hear Barry Woodward talk and proved very popular.

The whole event was organised and brought together by members of all the local Tadley churches and all events were free.

Jane Pitfield

St Luke's Coffee Mornings

We are pleased to report that Thursday mornings at St Luke's are still busy with people coming to the coffee morning. It is good to have this outreach into the village. As well as our regular Thursday gathering we have enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at the Pelican. Thank you, Liz, for always making us welcome. Christmas brings mince pies and carols and we thank Pat and Monica for providing the music.

During the year we have held several 'Bring and Buy' Sales, some for the Window Appeal, one for the MacMillan Nurses Charity and one to help Jonathan Cowdrey fund his attendance at the Transplant Games in Sheffield. Thank you coffee morning folk for your generosity on these occasions. We have celebrated birthdays and anniversaries - always a joy to do so. Sadness, too, in the death of Gill Smith in the summer. Our sympathy goes out to her family. She is very much missed. Illness, accidents and hospital visits have all afflicted us from time to time but support has always been forthcoming from various members.

Thank you all for your help especially during the time Dennis and I were away. Without the help of the coffee makers, providers of goodies, people to wash up and clear away, the coffee morning could not run. We look forward to 2009 and always look to welcome new people - so do come along.

Rita Ridout

Afternoon Teas in St. Paul's

Our Tuesday Teas have continued throughout the year due to the kindness of all on our rota of helpers, who prepare refreshments and welcome us. We meet in St Paul's Church from Easter to Harvest, when the weather is fair, then move into St Paul's Hall from Harvest to Easter, where we keep warm and snug through the winter.

We always look forward to welcoming visitors and new members and wish to thank all who make our teas possible. Any ideas or comments to help us improve these Tuesday afternoons will be gratefully received.

Claire Cooper

PARISH LIFE

Children, Youth & Families

Youth Co-Ordinator's Report

Over the year it has been good to see children at our services across the parish. St Paul's All Age services can often have up to 8 babies and children collecting Baptism candles. It is so important to welcome them into our church at these services and into God's family.

St Luke's has about 6 regular families at Sunday services. Although Sunday School is no longer always twice monthly, some of the mums and other adults led Sunday School throughout the year. It was lovely to see all these families present at the Nativity service. 11 children performed "Wriggly Nativity" and did so well with just two practices.

Wiz Kidz ran for over five years until July this year. Children of primary school age and younger attended the half-hour session of Bible stories, songs, prayer and refreshments. My thanks go to all those who led Wiz Kidz and we hope that it will return in the future - watch this space! If there is anyone who feels they are able help get Wiz Kidz going again please do not hesitate to contact me.

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We had two successful workshops again this year at Easter and then at Christmas. We always get lots of children and this year was no exception with over 70 children at the Christmas workshop. We divided into two ages at this workshop, spending some time learning about the meaning of Christmas, while the other age group were doing Christmas crafts.

I hope that Wiz Kidz may return in 2009 and that we continue to have many families attending our services.

Sarah Parkhurst

Cards to Baptism Families

On receiving the names of children who have been baptised, on behalf of the Parish, I send them a card each birthday up to the age of five years. I get all my cards from the Bible Society at a cost of 10p a card.

Claire Renfrew

PARISH LIFE

Church, Worship, Music & Ministry

Organists

Just after Easter we were very concerned to hear that Ralph Atton, one of our two mainstay organists at St Paul's and St Peter's, was not at all well, and would be unable to play for us for some time. This really thrust far too many duties upon our other main organist, Sarah Parkhurst, particularly as she is also the main pianist at St Luke's. Some Sundays were almost unbearably tight for time between services and there was little opportunity for Sarah to have a Sunday off. Throughout this time we were still relying on Christine Angwin for a monthly service at St Luke's and we began to rely quite fully on Monica Curry as our evening organist, whether at St Paul's or St Peter's.

To help alleviate some of the pressure we took the decision to invest in a series of organ CDs, offering us 200 popular hymn tunes as accompaniment. These are a wonderful standby when no organist was available at all.

We are so grateful to Sarah, Monica and Christine, and express our deep-felt thanks to each of them. Occasionally even Pat Brown has been known to double up taking the service and playing the organ. We are also pleased to report that Ralph is a lot better, including recovering from an operation on some of his fingers, and perhaps soon we may be able to welcome him back.

Peter Cooper

St Paul's Church Choir

The choir meets for rehearsals periodically on Fridays from 6.30pm in St Paul's Church. In addition to leading singing at our regular church services we have enjoyed other opportunities to entertain and sing with others.

In March the choir were invited to sing at The Hollies Nursing Home, Burghfield Common where one of our parishioners, Wally Pascall, now resides. We were made very welcome, singing and chatting to both staff and residents.

In June we took part in the RSCM Annual Area Music Festival in Winchester Cathedral, together with

many members of other choirs within the Diocese, singing from "Let us go to the house of the Lord".

In December we were invited to sing at a Christmas party at the Lodden Valley Day Care Centre, Tadley.

We are small in number and enjoy each other's company and friendship and would welcome new members.

Eileen Oughton - Choir Member

Flowers in St Paul's & St Peter's

Seven ladies enjoy arranging the flowers in St Paul's and St Peter's Churches. St Peter's has flowers from Easter to Harvest and St Paul's all year round except during Lent and Advent.

We would welcome more helpers to join our team. If you are a novice flower arranger help will be given where it is needed.

Any enquires contact Carol Latson on 9815451

Flowers in St Luke's

We are a small group of ladies who have welcomed the additional help of Pam Critchley to our number of helpers over the past year.

We have been blessed with some generous contributions of fresh flowers from various gardens in Pamber Heath and Tadley, and money gifted to mark a special anniversary of a loved one. These, and other donations, have been much appreciated especially at Easter and Christmas when flowers are more expensive. It is also an enormous help in conserving a small fallback fund when garden flowers are scarce.

Many thanks for all contributions of every kind and to the flower arrangers who have looked after St Luke's with great willingness throughout the past year.

*For further information contact:
Wendy Alder (Tel. 9700538)*

Embroidery Group

Our group of eleven ladies meet two or three times a year to discuss progress over tea and cake.

We are working on pew runners (cushions) for St Peter's pews. Seven have been completed with seven more in progress and ten to be started.

There are five individual kneelers being worked by members of St Paul's congregation for St Paul's church. Many thanks to all our embroiderers for their nimble finger-work.

Carol Latson

On behalf of the Embroidery Group

St Luke's Windows Appeal

At the beginning of 2008 the Appeals Team began planning the next round of fundraising events. However, despite the news of prices going up, further meetings were held to discuss the final costings for the windows and it became apparent that we had already achieved the amount we needed.

A final Bring and Buy was held on the 13th March that raised £126 and there was a further donation of £40.

At the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting the St Luke's Windows Appeal was officially closed and the PCC entered into final consultations over the work to be done on the Windows and applied for a faculty.

The Appeals Team had planned a dance in June 2008 for the Windows Appeal but as this money was no longer needed for the project, the profit from the dance was given to CLIC Sargent. This charity operates a centre attached to Southampton General Hospital that supports the families of children with

leukaemia. This was to give them thanks for all the help and support they had given to William Hunter and his family.

Work began on the windows in the autumn of 2008 and as I write this report the work is about two thirds of the way through and looking good. The work now being undertaken on the windows is being supervised by David and Sylvia Yemm together with Vic Latson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them personally for continuing to oversee this project as I know it still takes up quite a lot of their time.

As yet we have not planned a re-dedication or thanksgiving for the completion of the work, but I would expect to call the Appeals Team together again before too long to discuss this matter.

Again my sincere thanks to everyone who has been, or still is, involved in this project.

Anne Hutchison

Other Aspects of our Worship & Ministry

- Lay Ministers lead many of the non-eucharistic services, though we need to recruit more.
- Rota groups for Sunday duties include Administering Communion; Servers; Healing Prayer Ministry; Sidesmen; Bible Readers; Leading Intercessions; and Coffee Making.
- Volunteer Vergers help enormously at weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- The cleaning teams at St Paul's & St Luke's provide an essential service to keep our churches appearing well-kept and tidy.

PARISH LIFE

Community, Ecumenical & World Awareness

Mini-markets

The parish mini-markets are held on the first Saturday of most months. We take a break in August and at Christmas.

We sell bric-a-brac, books, toys, and second-hand clothes which have been kindly donated. We also sell refreshments for our customers to enjoy with friends. All monies raised go to Parish funds.

Thank you to everyone who keeps our stock

supplied with goods to sell. Also, many thanks to all who help set up, sell and put away the stock.

Any queries about helping or donating items contact Vic or Carol Latson on 9815451

Coffee `n` Company

Special Coffee Mornings held in St Paul's Church Hall last year included a Beading Workshop, a Table Top Sale, a recipe sharing time which raised money for the charity CLIC, and an opportunity for a whole variety of charities to raise money and awareness with a stall.

“Eat as much as you like!” Uganda Supper

That was the rash claim for the supper held in St Luke's Church in March: “Eat as much as you like...” and “Share in the sunshine.” In fact it turned out to be a really horrible, wet night and “Supper for Sixty” had to stretch to “Nearly enough for Ninety”!

We really appreciated the interest and support of those who shared supper and watched a presentation about the work in Uganda where pastors and teachers seek to help children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and/or living in very vulnerable circumstances.

Neighbours and friends joined regular church-goers from most of the local churches to hear more of the

vision to change the lives of these children. People really did “give what they were able” and the very generous sum of £700 was raised.

Thank-you to all who came - and from Uganda, these messages:

“Surely we are proud of these lovely children, gifts from God to us, what a blessing to be part of these children's lives.”

“Please, may God give you happy and long life.”

“May God bless you abundantly for such love!”

Christine and Bryan Watson

Summer Fete 2008

The Summer Fete was held on Saturday 7th June. Our theme was the Olympics. We wanted to involve children as much as possible so we included a story tent, bouncy castle, face painting and children's races. We were lucky that it was a lovely day and brought out the families, many of whom were new faces. We had familiar as well as new stalls including a `pamper` tombola which was very successful. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we made £1,736 for parish funds, which was fantastic and could not have been achieved without the hard work of so many people. We are already planning the summer Fete 2009!

Sarah Parkhurst

[on behalf of Vicki, Anita, Sarah L, and Sarah P]

Strawberry Cream Teas

The week preceding the Strawberry Cream Teas always fills Peter and I with trepidation, as we watch the evolving weather forecasts to see how kind the weather will be to us on the day. Even on the morning itself we sometimes have to make a judgement over whether to bring the tables and chairs into the garden or set them up in the Hall. 2008 was a Hall year and the decision was well made on a windy and wet day.

People were not put off though and many turned up to devour the delectable scones, cream and strawberries and to enjoy pleasant conversation.

We are always pleased when people come from the wider local community, in addition to regular Sunday Church friends, and this year was no exception. If you wish to remind yourselves of the day do take a look, if you can, on the Tadley Roundabout website for all the photos.

The day raised £335 and we are extremely grateful to all who helped make the day run so smoothly and successfully.

Claire Cooper

“Ride and Stride”

This event, held in September, saw 33 churches listed as open in the whole Basingstoke area and ten sponsored walkers and/or cyclists raised the useful sum of £1,843 between them. Half this amount goes to the Historic Churches Trust and the rest goes to the church attended by the sponsored person. St Mary the Virgin Church in Silchester was known to have received the most visitors.

Unfortunately, only one person from our Parish took part, but he managed to visit Odiham, Long Sutton and Upper Froyle and raised £10. However, there were seven visitors to St Paul’s Church and nine to St Peter’s Church.

Harvest Supper

Our Harvest Supper took the form of a “Bring and Share” meal. What a feast it was, with hot and cold, sweet and savoury dishes and plenty for everyone to have seconds or even thirds! Table top brain teasers went with the meal to keep minds agile.

After supper we had a quiz which was fun, especially for the winning team. Thank you to everyone for a splendid supper and to the quizmasters. See you all for 2009’s Harvest Supper.

Carol Latson

Concerts 2008

St Paul’s Church was a venue for three concerts last year. In March we were very privileged that Basingstoke Ladies Choir and their link German Male Voice Choir performed a joint concert. The church

was full and the choirs performed a variety of music finishing the evening with a joint piece. A wonderful evening was had by all.

In September, the Kingsclere Singers and friends performed a concert of English music including pieces by John Rutter, folk songs and music from ‘My Fair Lady’.

A special concert was also put on by Tadley Concert Brass, at their request, and the place was filled with their music.

Sarah Parkhurst

Christmas Fayre

I was the sole organiser of the 2008 Christmas Fayre on 21st November. Normally at least two members of the congregation join together to share the burden of organising one of the main fund raising events for the Parish. Sadly there were no other volunteers. Despite this the Christmas Fayre was a great success. There were many volunteers from the congregation to run stalls, collect items to sell and bake cakes. The Fayre raised over £800 for Church Funds and more importantly had a warm, friendly atmosphere and encouraged local people to come and support their local churches.

I would like to thank all those who took part and supported the Fayre.

Jane Pitfield

Parish Magazine: Editorial

We are grateful to Linda Hutchinson who continues to work wonders as editor of the Parish Magazine. She has introduced new features and kept the editorial lively, though we would always welcome more input from our readers and from others in the parish, both individuals and from organisations and groups.

When she has been unable to do the monthly print run, Linda has handed her editorial over to Claire Cooper. From there the team of collators turn up, usually on a Monday morning, to bring the whole publication together. We are so grateful to them all for all the time they give to our magazine production, and we thank both them and Jean Kyle and her distributors, who writes next.

Peter Cooper

Parish Magazine: Distribution

At present 244 magazines are delivered each month either through doors by volunteers, left in church or by post. Numbers have stayed roughly the same for 2008 as they were in 2007. There are usually extra copies available in each church. The price has remained at 30p, or even cheaper at £3 for a subscription to the eleven copies through the year, which is good value.

I do have a concern that we do not have more names to call upon if anyone is ill or are unable to continue delivering the magazines. I have just one name at present and would always appreciate a few more who are willing to be called upon.

Jean Kyle

Ecumenical

The ministers of churches represented in CTAT (Churches Together Around Tadley) meet almost every month in a lunchtime gathering, maintaining fellowship, sharing news, finding areas for co-operation, discussing current topics in which churches are involved and bringing these together in prayer. During the year the United Reformed minister, Harry Goodchild, retired and he has yet to be replaced. Though in September we welcomed Timothy Moore from the USA as the local Methodist minister. Unfortunately he has since announced that he and his family have to return to America. We have also welcomed Fr Pat Tansey to St Michael's Roman Catholic Church. In 2009 we will be saying farewell to Captains Paul and Glenda Holifield of the Salvation Army, though they will be replaced almost immediately.

The main annual events for Tadley churches continue to be the January United Worship and the Good Friday Walk of Witness. In 2008 we also joined together in August for HOPE 08, which has already been reported on (*page 10*).

In the autumn there began a new series of Local Churches Forums, drawing together all who may be interested, within the various congregations in and around Tadley, in furthering our understanding and co-operation with one another. These Forums have become a place for fellowship, prayer, discussion and planning, and with a less formal structure are currently building upon the previous more formally constituted CTAT.

Peter Cooper

Overseas Mission Links

In mid-2008 our CMS Mission Partners, Adrian and Jane Shutt and family, returned to England from Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda. They are currently living and working on the Isle of Man following a total of seven or eight years in Uganda.

Almost immediately we were asked by CMS if we would like to link with new Mission Partners and as a result we have adopted Kate and Nick Wooding and family. Currently they are still in England preparing for their medical and educational work in Kampala, Uganda. They are well on the way to raising promises of sponsorship to cover all their costs over a 3-year period and are looking forward to going out to Uganda around mid-2009.

Peter Cooper

Other Pastoral Contacts

PASTORAL OFFICES, such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, throughout the year create many contacts at times of both great joy and deep sadness. It is often these contacts that can be built upon over the years.

ALL SOULS' COMMEMORATION

This annual, sensitive and highly appreciated service is part of our ongoing ministry to the bereaved. It offers to many an opportunity of help in the process of coming to terms with their long-term grief.

ALL AGE FAMILY WORSHIP provides a more flexible and informal framework for welcoming younger families and those not familiar with church.