

2009 Annual Report

*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.*

The Year in Review

Any year in the life of our parish is a busy year and 2009 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.

2009 saw the completion of the restoration work on the stained glass and leaded windows in St Luke's. The colours seem so much brighter and all the weathering has been put right for a long time into the future. Thanks are due to all who were involved in the hard work of the fund-raising of the previous year, which made it all possible.

Early in the year we welcomed our new CMS Mission Partners, Kate and Nick Wooding, introducing themselves for the first time. Later they, with their children, were to embark on a medical mission in Kampala, Uganda. We have kept in close contact ever since and have regular updates on their progress.

In agreeing to adopt the Woodings, we had, as a parish, made a commitment to give regularly and to raise funds for them through special events. By the end of the year we had succeeded in raising £ towards their work, our thanks mainly due to the encouragement of Myles Ridley and to all who responded.

During the year we said a final farewell to two very faithful congregation members. Gene Carrington passed away in February, and Wally Pascall in July.

They were both very senior, long-term and much-loved members of our parish, contributing so much to church life over many years. It was a sad time as we comforted family and friends, but it helped us to remember with much gratitude all the memories of their friendship and faith.

In September, for the first time, we joined in the national 'Back to Church Sunday', linking it in with our Harvest Festivals. It was good to see an increased number at all services that day, though the ongoing increase has been slight at the best. We will be joining these two occasions together in 2010, hoping and praying for better results.

Another joining of two events happened in December, and successfully so, when we united the Christingle with the Gift Services. For the first time St Luke's had their own Christingle and the overall result was one of increased attendance and giving to both causes, the Children's Society and local children and families.

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

- ◇ An amazing Uganda Supper in St Luke's with Christine & Bryan excelling in hospitality and encouraging generosity for the Ugandan project they support, as well as Kate & Nick Wooding.
- ◇ A United Service for all Tadley CTAT churches, that had to move into the Methodist Church with just five minutes notice. Led by our Rector, Peter, the worship seemed inspired by the sudden move.

- ◊ A series of evenings with teaching videos on 'Seeking the Father Heart of God', culminating in a video presentation on 'The Cross' on Maundy Thursday.
- ◊ A Book Sale in St Luke's in January.
- ◊ A CTAT Forum in St Luke's, the first of a number in the year, in February.
- ◊ In March a parish Lent Course and the hosting in St Paul's of the Women's World Day of Prayer service.
- ◊ A Confirmation in May in St Mary's, Silchester, including that of Bryan Lock.
- ◊ A St Peter's Day service in June that also saw the 10th anniversary of Pat Brown's ordination as priest, as well as the 35th anniversary of Peter Cooper's.
- ◊ In July some went to Winchester Cathedral to witness the deaconing of Stefan Collier, who left St Luke's as an ordinand in training two years earlier. Stefan is now a curate in a parish in Winchester itself.
- ◊ Sharing in the celebrations of Tadley's St Michael's Roman Catholic Church on their 50th anniversary, attended by their Bishop of Portsmouth.
- ◊ Special services that attracted more than just our regulars: Mothering Sunday worship, Harvest Festivals on 'Back to Church Sunday', Shoebox Celebrations, the All Souls' Service of Memories, Christingle & Gift Services, Tadley School services, Carol, Crib and Midnight Services. The Christmas services were though affected by the snow from earlier that week.
- ◊ Special events that similarly attract many from beyond our immediate circle included: Summer Fete, Christmas Fayre, Cream Teas, Coffee 'n' Company, Coffee mornings and Mini Markets.

Further details of some of the above appear in this report later on, as well as in the later Parish Life section.

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. Their involvement alone makes so much of what we do all the more possible.

PCC Proceedings

The Church Council began the year with a membership of 18 but no new appointments were

made at the last Annual Meeting to fill vacancies left by resignations so membership went down to 15. The Council met six times - on alternate months - with an average attendance of ten. During these meetings regular reports were received on Finance, the state of the fabric of all the church buildings, Deanery Synod meetings and Special Events.

Ralph Bennett attended one meeting to give a report on the work he and Claire Cooper were doing to produce a comprehensive plan of the burials in St Peter's Churchyard. The four church services at which the congregation is asked to bring extra gifts (ie Harvest, Shoebox Sunday, Christingle and Christmas Gift Service) were reviewed and, as a result, the Christingle and Gift Services were combined. A new national venture, 'Back to Church Sunday' was adopted and took place with the Harvest Festival Services.

As Chairman, Peter Cooper has reported to the Council on informal talks concerning possible future Benefice boundary changes within the Basingstoke Deanery though no definite plans have been formulated.

(See reports elsewhere from our Churchwardens and Parish Treasurer)

Statistics

Church Electoral Roll

Since the Annual Meeting in 2009, one name has been removed from the Electoral Roll. The total number of names on the Roll as at 31 December 2009 was therefore 112.

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 2009

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

Festivals

	Year	Communicants	Attending		Year	Communicants	Attending
Easter	2005	91	119		2005	149	605
	2006	87	133		2006	148	499
	2007	112	133		2007	159	461
	2008	93	110		2008	152	563
	2009	119	135		2009	103	391 <i>(snow)</i>

Church Attendance in October

Over all three churches - Figures submitted for National Statistics

	Year	Adults	Under 16yrs
Harvest	2005	99	24
	2006	125	46
	2007	100	33
	2008	88	24
	2009	103	25 <i>(Back to Church Sunday)</i>

Average Weekly Attendance Over 'Ordinary' Weeks in October

Over all three churches

Year	SUNDAYS		WEEKDAYS		
	Adults	Under 16yrs	Adults	Under 16yrs	
2005	66	4	15	11	
2006	62	10	19	15	
2007	70	10	29	16	
2008	64	10	5	--	<i>(WizKidz ceased)</i>
2009	62	5	5	--	

Other Notable Occasions

Either or both churches

	Adults	Under 16yrs		Adults	Under 16yrs
Women's World Day Prayer	68	--		144	57 <i>(snow)</i>
Mothering Sunday	59	9		Patronal Service St Paul's	40
All Souls	52	2		Patronal Service St Luke's	31
Christingle/Gift Services	79	33		Patronal Service St Peter's	38
				<i>(Including 11am & 6pm)</i>	

Pastoral Services

The Clergy and Parish Reader have been involved in:

32 Baptisms, 2 Thanksgivings for the Gift of a Child;

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

and ministering to the bereaved through 31 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

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

Each year every parish has to pay a Parish Share to the Diocese to fund our incumbent, clergy housing, training, pensions and Diocesan, General Synod and Archbishops' Council administration. For a number of years previous to 2009 we have been withholding the last £6,000 of this Parish Share, as our income would not have permitted us to pay the full amount. In 2009 the amount requested of us by Winchester Diocese was £52,511, a 5% increase on 2008, of this we were able to pay only £43,511, which was £6,500 below the figure we were asked to pay.

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. At the end of the year, having paid the above and all our invoices and expenses, the General Fund was left with a surplus of just £94.

St Peter's Fund fared a little better than we had thought, gaining nearly £19,000 over the year, but that was after the drop of £40,000 in 2008, so the Fund is still down overall. This is a restricted Fund so we cannot use it to offset our Parish Share underpayment, though it does pay 20% of the total, as this is considered by us to be the appropriate amount for St Peter's within the whole parish.

Towards the end of 2009, with a complete change in the way Parish Share was to be assessed, the Diocese had a very serious shortfall on its proposed 2010 budget. Although this may work in our favour with a much lower Parish Share to pay, it does mean redundancies began to be made before Christmas 2009. These will continue over the next three years.

We continue to be extremely grateful to our Treasurer, Sylvia Yemm, whose accounts have been described as excellent and a good example for all to follow. We have also undertaken to find a replacement for Sylvia, but have as yet been unsuccessful - any ideas? We are also grateful to Tom Monfries for being our Independent Examiner.

Gift Aid Summary

During 2009 our planned giving donors have risen from 88 in 2008 to 93 in the year 2009, these donations being received either through the bank,

by the free-will envelopes or by 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 contributions from 81 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 £6789.01 compared to £7081.28 in 2008, a further drop of £300 in our income.

The amount reclaimed from the Inland Revenue on planned giving and Gift Aid envelopes during 2009 was £6,614.59 compared to £6,923.92 in 2008.

Fabric

All three churches continue in reasonably good condition thanks to the efforts of volunteers undertaking routine and specific maintenance jobs, for which the Parish is extremely grateful. Two churches are awaiting quinquennial reports pending the appointment of a new parish architect.

The grounds at St Paul's have been rather easier to maintain since the gift to the parish of a sit-on mower from St Paul's Pre-School. It seems that this machine has made cutting the grass a more attractive task and we are indebted to them for their generosity.

Tasks undertaken this year include the following:

- ◇ The mounting of a cross on one wall in St Paul's Church Hall, this was made by David Yemm initially for use in the Women's World Day of Prayer service in March.
- ◇ The continuation of making pew runners for St Peter's Church.
- ◇ Regular grass cutting in the summer.
- ◇ Grounds clearance and gardening at all three churches.

Thanks are due to our sidesmen, cleaners, flower arrangers, embroiderers and all the unsung heroes without whom our churches would find it very difficult to operate, especially in these times of reduced income.

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
- ◇ Fete
- ◇ Christmas Fayre
- ◇ Harvest Supper
- ◇ Tuesday Afternoon Tea
- ◇ Tea 4 All
- ◇ PCC meetings

As with our churches the maintenance of the hall depends on a band of volunteers, to whom we are indebted.

Community Outreach

Special Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service which is organised for the residents of Peach Cottage, their parents and carers has become an annual event which they very

much enjoy. So there was great disappointment when the weather conditions made it too dangerous to bring the residents in their wheelchairs. However, Pat and Monica were invited to Peach Cottage and the service took place in their large Common Room. The atmosphere was relaxed and worshipful and, as a result of the experience, it has been suggested that future Carol Services should take place there. However, since it was also felt that their visit to St Paul's is something they appreciate, we are hoping to organise an additional service there at Easter time.

Combined Christingle and Gift Service

This service, combined for the first time, seemed to work well. Donated toys were distributed to children through the Salvation Army, other gifts to teenagers through Penn House, Basingstoke, and to the homeless via May Place, Basingstoke. The 55 Christingles raised £280 for the Children's Society.

Home Communions

The number of people who were once regular members of our congregations and are now unable to attend has risen and several of these have been receiving Home Communion on a regular basis. The Clergy and/or our Reader, Wendy Alder, are always willing to take this service to the homes of people who are ill or unable to get to church. Please feel free to make this request. It is not the sign of receiving 'the last rites', rather an integral part of our overall ministry.

Visiting & 'Going Further'

On an informal basis, members of our congregation visit anyone they know of in need of some company in their own homes, while others offer a variety of help through the community care group 'Crosslink'. Unfortunately, at Christmas time, the snowy weather meant that the planned visit to sing carols at the hospital was cancelled, though Monica and Pat were able to lead carol singing at Parklands.

Local Schools

There have been two visits to St Paul's Church by local school children seeking to learn what makes it a "special place". Peter and Pat have continued to lead fortnightly assemblies at Tadley School, Pat was invited to speak at their Harvest Assembly and Christine was given the opportunity to talk about our Christingle Service.

Tadley School held a special service commemorating Palm Sunday and Easter in St Paul's and school leavers from that school and from Bishopswood Junior School each held a special service here at the end of the Summer Term. Unfortunately, the bad weather in December meant that Tadley School's planned Christmas Gift Service had to take place in their own school hall.

Peter is also ex-officio Foundation Governor of **Silchester CE Aided Primary School**. He has been joined by Revd Ken Batt, appointed Foundation Governor during the year. They are both involved in Governor and sub-committee meetings on a regular basis. They are also both key links between School & Church in Silchester, for organising special joint 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, Christine Watson has been re-applying for clearance as this anniversary has been reached for each person. Some members no longer help in this way so their clearance will not be renewed. There is no cost to the individual but we seek to assist the Diocese in being good stewards of the money available.

We are grateful to all our visitors and children's workers. If anyone is unsure about their clearance, or needs to apply in order to help within the Parish, please contact Christine Watson.

Deanery Synod

Two Deanery Synods took place in 2009. An additional 'Deanery Leadership Council' took place on the 4th June, though the Parish elected representatives were not entitled to vote at this meeting.

Our Deanery Synod representatives are Myles Ridley, Steve Parkhurst and Christine Watson. Christine is the Deanery Synod Secretary.

The first meeting of Synod took place in Silchester School on the 13th January 2009. After an

extensive description of life in Silchester Village given by Valerie Hyde, the Synod Lay Chairman, John Davies presented the progress in developing an organisational review for the Deanery, in the light of changing circumstances and challenges. Key proposals were the establishment of an annual Deanery Leadership Council, a process for managing the Deanery Share, and adjustments to the mechanisms for pastoral reorganisation. A draft work plan for the next three years within the Deanery was included. A General Synod report and a bible study were also included.

The second Synod took place at St Mark's Junior School (Emmanuel Church), Hatch Warren School, on the 4th November. The Lay Chairman, John Davies introduced Mike Powis and Zoë Hart from the Diocesan Discipleship Department. Mike asked Synod what they thought they were about as God's People and explained that discipleship and evangelism are crucial to who we are and that the Discipleship Department would like to hear what churches are doing and to help if possible.

Zoë gave an overview of 'Fresh Expressions'. Fresh Expressions is a means of reaching the wider community, working alongside the established church to try to connect with the 'unchurched' members of the community; it is not all about 'fads and fashions' but about really connecting with people. The Deanery Chair of Finance, David Josey gave a report on where the Deanery was with regard to parish share. As Parish Share is being decided at Deanery level in 2010, this part of the meeting prompted most comment from the members.

In mid-November, as a result of Parish Share offers for 2010 from across the Diocese not reaching their anticipated total, the Diocesan Budget was reduced by £1.7 million. This will mean both immediate and mid-term job cuts in both the Diocesan Office and in the number of serving clergy.

Bishop Trevor Willmott's farewell to the Diocese took place at St Michael's, Basingstoke in November, and our Deanery Secretary, Christine Watson, master-minded all the arrangements for a Deanery coachload of 80 (including a few from Odiham Deanery) to attend his installation in Canterbury Cathedral as Bishop of Dover.

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

We, like many parishes, have been reducing our Parish Share, that which we can afford to pay to support the provision of a full-time ministry. This has been compounded by increased fuel, utility and other costs. In turn this reduces what the Diocese has available to spend on maintaining ministry across the parishes. Now the effect is upon us.

Towards the end of 2009 our Diocese had to introduce a severely reduced emergency budget for 2010. Down from over £12 million to only £10.5 million, we have already seen the start of reductions in paid positions. Over the next three years the 180 Winchester Diocese stipendiary clergy posts will be reduced to 150, a loss of 30. Together with central diocesan posts, the effect of these cuts will be felt by many.

At the same time there is a need to reassess the provision of full-time clergy for a number of parishes across the North Hampshire area, including our own and our near neighbours. The next year or more will be a time of working out with others what this could eventually mean in terms of parishes and full-time appointments.

Needless to say this places some urgency on clarifying for ourselves what our own parish ministry is all about. The PCC is starting off 2010 with an attempt to put into a few words all that sums up our purpose as a parish: a statement of our mission. Also to state our vision of how we consider we can best be achieving that. This is not a playing with words, but a prayerful seeking of our purpose and way forward under God's guidance.

The diocese has also asked every parish to consider crucial questions in a programme entitled 'Giving for Life', and our PCC will be approaching the challenge of those questions in the year ahead. Among other things, this should help us to tackle some of the financial pressures we are currently experiencing.

Our on-going life as Christians in the world is, through our worship, prayer and fellowship, to discover the inspiration for our God-given mission in the world, which for us begins in our own parish. This involves reaching out in the power of the Holy Spirit to love and care for others, living the Gospel and sharing the good news.

On behalf of the PCC
The Revd Canon Peter Cooper

Chairman of the PCC - Rector of the United Benefice
April 2010

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Vic Latson & Myles Ridley
(Churchwardens : Reports on Fabric, Goods & Ornaments, St Paul's Hall Lettings & Deanery Synod)

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

Jane Pitfield
(Minutes Secretary)

Barry Seymour
(Electoral Roll Officer)

David Yemm
(Gift Aid & Stewardship Secretary)

Sylvia Yemm
(PCC Treasurer)

Tom Monfries
(Independent Examiner of Accounts)

Christine Watson
(Child Protection Officer)

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

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Parish Website - stpaulstadley.org.uk

PARISH LIFE

Prayer, Fellowship, Teaching & Evangelism

Prayer Fellowship Group

The group has continued to meet each month, usually on the second Monday, in the home of a different member each time. Peter or Pat begins each session with a short Bible reading and then we silently pray for each other in turn, remembering also any who are unable to join us. This is followed by a time of 'open prayer' for many. A wooden holding cross is passed around the circle which gives each person an opportunity to ask for prayer for themselves, or for the needs of any other person they may know and then pray aloud or silently. No-one is under pressure to speak.

The group then enjoy a lunch to which everyone has brought a food contribution. The prayer support and fellowship is valued by all. Thanks to Wendy Capel who arranges the venue each month.

There is also an opportunity to join in a group which prays specifically for the needs of the Parish. This group meets for half an hour each Thursday evening in St Paul's Choir Vestry at 7.00 pm. All are welcome to join either group. Please ask Peter, Pat, Wendy or Vic for more information if you feel interested.

Pat Brown

Alpha Course

In September we attempted to launch a new Alpha Course. It met for four weeks, but those attending found it difficult to make the same night each week, so the Course stopped until able to re-start it next year. This will hopefully happen a few weeks after Easter, when more folk may be free to attend.

Peter Cooper

Lent Course

We again held a Lent Course based on the latest publication from York Courses. The 2009 topic was 'These Three ... Faith, Hope and Love' and was based on 1 Corinthians 13. Using handbooks and a CD introduction each time, the discussion/study group met in St Luke's.

Peter Cooper

'The Father Heart of God'

This was the title for a series of video teaching DVDs held in St Luke's in January & February. The source was the conference attended by Peter the previous November, and those who attended were led to consider ways in which we relate to God, often also affected by our personal experiences in our early, formative years.

Peter Cooper

St Luke's Coffee Mornings

Once again, thanks to our group of coffee making ladies, washer-uppers and furniture movers, we have had a good year at St Luke's Coffee Mornings. It is weekly social gathering that we all look forward to, not just for the coffee and cake but for the friends we meet, old and new. There is always room for more and we will make you very welcome if you would like to join us. Some sad times of course particularly this year in losing Wally and Olive. They are both missed.

The high light in November was the Christmas dinner at The Pelican and once again Liz gave us a lovely meal and decorated the restaurant so beautifully. Pat and Monica came to encourage us with our carol singing at Christmas and we thank them for giving up their time. Friendship is so important and even more so as you get older and cannot get about as easily as you once did and I am pleased to play a small part in providing a venue for this to develop. The coffee morning is a church outreach into the community but it is open to all with no strings attached. We look forward to another happy year together. Please support us when you can.

Rita Ridout

Afternoon Teas in St. Paul's Hall

Tuesday Teas continues to meet each Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Though we are a small group, we enjoy one another's company and always welcome new folk who might like to join us. Thank you so very much to all our lovely members, who produce endless cups of tea and often home-made cakes and scones.

If anyone would like to come on to our rota to help serve the tea and cakes once a month or so, please contact Claire on 9814860.

Claire Cooper

St Luke's Sunday School

In November 2009 St Luke's Sunday School happily started running again. Its aim is to provide activities for children, whenever possible, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during morning services. It was great to see quite a few children some weeks. This built up to the Nativity service, which saw ten children taking part. They did brilliantly, acting and singing to a rather full church of very smiley, happy faces watching on. We are very lucky to have some fantastic parents who are always more than willing to give invaluable help and support. Also, the children seem to be enjoying themselves, which, after all, is what it's all about!

Apart from a slow start to 2010, due to the snow, St Luke's Sunday School is set to continue.

Sarah Lewin

Baptism Preparation

Baptism Preparation evenings are held approximately once a month for the parents of those whose children are about to be Baptised. The evening includes the showing of a brief DVD video and a discussion led by Peter. This revolves around the parents and godparents roles in the ongoing bringing up of the child in the Christian faith, as well as in the Baptism service itself. It's chief focus is on the Baptised life being a journey for a whole lifetime - a journey that the parents should be on as well to support their child. An opportunity is taken to promote Alpha as being suitable for parents to inform themselves about the faith their children are being baptised in to.

In the past we have been so grateful to a number of our own church families who have been willing to host these evenings. As the number of venues became scarce, we began also to ask the couples themselves if one of them could host. Frequently someone has been more than willing to do so.

Cards to Baptism Families

On receiving the names of the children who have been baptised, on behalf of the Parish, I send them a birthday card every year up to the age of 5. All of the cards are purchased in support of the Bible Society. They are 20p a card.

Clare Renfrew

PARISH LIFE

Church, Worship, Music & Ministry

Organists

We survived the whole of 2009 with just two regular organists, Sarah Parkhurst and Monica Curry. Sarah played at the majority of both main morning services throughout the year, while Monica covered almost every evening service. We, and also Sarah, were grateful for the monthly occasions when Christine Agwin played piano at St Luke's, and those times when Tom Monfries was free to play at both the 9.30 and 11am on the same morning. There have also been a few occasions when Pat Brown accompanied a service, plus a number of occasions when we had to fall back on our emergency contingency of using the accompaniment CDs. These

CDs do though limit us to only those hymns, but no songs, that are supplied. Further hymns and any songs at all would be possible, but only by buying further costly sets of CDs at 200 tunes a time over ten CDs.

We are happy to report that Ralph Atton is recovered from his illness, fall and operation, but has only taken on playing in his home church of St Mary's, Silchester, where he is very much under demand.

Peter Cooper

St Paul's Church Choir

The choir, led by Rev Peter Cooper, meet for approximately one hour's rehearsal periodically on Fridays at 6.30 pm in St Paul's Church. In addition to regular church services, opportunities arising and by invitation, they sing at other venues. Amongst these are local Care and Nursing homes; also providing adult voices in support of Tadley Youth Drama's annual productions.

On the social side, the choir and friends attended a most enjoyable performance of 'The Gondoliers' at the Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke in February whilst in December they went to the Anvil to see 'Cinderella'.

In May, joining with St Mary's Silchester choir, St Paul's led the singing at the Confirmation Service at Silchester. Amongst the candidates for Confirmation was Bryan who wishes to again thank his many friends in both churches for their support. In June, joining with some 300 other choristers from the Diocese we sang at Winchester Cathedral Annual Royal School of Church Music Festival.

July saw the choir singing, by invitation, at St Mary's, Old Basing to augment their choir in the ceremony of the investiture of Deacons.

In October the choir and friends provided entertainment at the Annual Harvest Supper. This comprised a varied selection of humorous readings together with (we hope) equally humorous singing - including a duet from two who had hoped their costumes might disguise their true identity. Also, in October we welcomed a new member who contributes a contralto dimension. We now have a full set of voices once again.

In addition to singing at many weddings, the choir also demonstrates their multi-tasking skills by bell-ringing at St Peter's Church, as occasions require. We are small in number, enjoy each other's company and friendship, and would welcome new members.

Bryan Lock - Choir member (apprentice)

Flowers in St Paul's & St Peter's

The flowers are arranged throughout the year by a group of seven ladies. We meet from time to time during the year to discuss what arrangements are needed for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

We welcome new members and are always happy to help if required. If you are interested please contact Carol Latson on 9815451 for details.

Carol Latson

Flowers in St Luke's

First of all, my thanks to St Luke's flower arrangers who have been very generous with their time and effort, and with the supply of flowers for our church, during my absence over the past year. Also, my thanks to others who have supplied garden flowers or a donation in memory of a loved one - it is greatly appreciated.

If you, or you know of someone who would be willing to help with flower arranging please contact me.

Wendy Alder (9700538)

Embroidery Group

The embroidery group meet two or three times a year to discuss projects and progress over a cuppa and a slice of cake. Our current project is to produce pew runners (long cushions) for St Peter's Church. Ten have been completed and are in use in the pews; seven are being worked with a further seven yet to be started.

Many thanks to our embroiderers and for the hospitality we enjoy - especially the tea and cakes!

Carol Latson

On behalf of the Embroidery Group

Other Aspects of our Worship & Ministry

- ◇ Lay Ministers lead many of the non-eucharistic services, though we need to recruit more and 2010 should see a training course.
- ◇ 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

Mini-markets are held on the first Saturday of most months with a break for Christmas and during August. Our customers enjoy rummaging through the nearly new clothes, bric-a-brac, books and toys. Refreshments are provided so they can also sit and relax with friends.

Donations, for which we are always grateful, not only keep the mini-market supplied with stock, but also provide contributions for the fete and bazaar. We also use unsold clothing for the 'Bags 2 School' collection. All proceeds from the markets go into church funds and in 2009 we raised around £300.

Thanks to all our helpers, to all those who donate items and to our customers.

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

Coffee 'n' Company

Two special Coffee Mornings were held in St Paul's Church Hall last year. A grand Book Sale held in April raised £82 for Church Funds and in October another £114 was raised for the church and also gave an opportunity for various charities to be supported.

Summer Fete 2009

The theme for this year's fete was 'Recycling'. It took place on Saturday 6th June and this year we opened the fete earlier than usual, at 12 pm. The weather was not as kind to us as it was in 2008 so we fitted as many stalls inside the hall as we could. The stage quickly filled with lots of bags of clothes and textiles people brought to be recycled through the 'Bag 2 School' project. We mixed the usual stalls with some new ones, including 'Tin can alley', 'Guess the plant' and a children's planting stall.

Throughout the afternoon there were lots of family challenges outside where children made uses of newspaper and cardboard boxes! Despite the weather we gathered a good crowd and stall holders were busy over the whole 3 hours.

We were really pleased to make over £1,700 pounds for church funds. Our thanks go to all the stall-holders who gave up their time to support the fete, many of whom also spent time preparing for their stall before-hand.

Fete 2010 is currently being planned.

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

Strawberry Cream Teas

Slightly later in July than previous years, the Cream Teas, even though some had begun their summer holiday, still served 70 teas with 140 scones. Through the efforts of a dedicated team, we raised £326. For some it was an exhausting afternoon and we are so grateful to both the workers and all who enjoyed their tea.

Claire Cooper

Harvest Supper

A "Bring and Share" meal was again a great success with a variety of tasty dishes. There were quizzes and brain teasers to amuse everyone, but the highlight of the evening was an entertainment by St Paul's Choir and co-opted friends, who proved to have a talent for comedy as well as for singing.

Pat Brown

'Ride and Stride'

This event, held in September, saw 31 churches listed as open in the whole Basingstoke area and 8 sponsored walkers and/or cyclists raised the useful sum of £2,238 between them - more than was raised last year. Half this amount goes to the Historic Churches Trust and the rest of the money raised goes to the church attended by the sponsored person. Once again, St Mary the Virgin Church in Silchester received the most visitors.

All three of our Tadley churches were 'manned' and open to visitors and two walkers from our Parish took part. They visited 6 churches and raised £103 for Church Funds.

Concerts 2009

St Paul's Church was a concert venue for 3 concerts this year. In July, the Kingsclere Singers and Bishopswood Infant School performed a concert entitled "Summer is for Singing", which included 'Mamma Mia', 'The Lion King' and different African songs. It was lovely to see the church full, and having children perform in a concert always provides a very special atmosphere.

In December, Tadley Concert Brass gave a concert for their own supporters. A week later the Kingsclere Singers performed a concert of Christmas music which was well attended in spite of the snowy conditions.

Sarah Parkhurst

Christmas Fayre

The usual stalls were featured at our annual Christmas Fayre with a special children's corner with toys for sale, a children's tombola, face painting and artificial tattoos. After the hard work of decorating the hall the previous evening and setting up the stalls during the morning there was the opportunity of soup for lunch, thanks to a donation of a commercial soup warmer. We began the afternoon with a short prayer and then pulled Christmas crackers to spark a happy atmosphere. Father Christmas was seen mingling with the customers and the Guides who were supported us with three guessing games. A total of £758 was raised during the afternoon and later donations brought this up to £804 for Church Funds.

Thank you to all who donated goods or money, who spent time cooking cakes, preserves and other goodies; to those who gave their time and attention to publicity and other preparations and to all who set up attractive stalls and persuaded our customers to buy.

Pat Brown

Parish Magazine: Editorial

Our editor Linda Hutchinson, has continued to do marvellous work on the monthly editions of the magazine. She has managed to find many features

herself, though we would always welcome more input from our readers and from others in the parish, both individuals and from organisations and groups.

Near the start of the year, Linda found she could no longer spare the time for the print-run, so Claire Cooper took this on and looked for other volunteers. We were very fortunate to discover Neil Toplass, who printed almost every issue in 2009, and we are very grateful to him for his time. Unfortunately he has now had to stop this, so once again Claire is looking for a volunteer or two for this monthly duty. Any offers?

Another team collate and staple, usually on a Monday morning, bringing the whole publication together. We are so grateful to them all for 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

The church magazine has lost some long-term subscribers this year. However, two hundred and forty-one copies are distributed each month either by hand delivery, post or collection from church.

The church is fortunate in having a large group of volunteers who write, print, collate, bundle and deliver the magazines each month. I would like to say a personal thank-you to everyone involved. If anyone has an item they would like to see published in the magazine, please send it to the Editor, Linda Hutchinson (see details in the magazine).

The double issue of December/January has been a success and in view of the snowy conditions, I am sure many people appreciated not having to deliver a January issue.

Jean Kyle

St Peter's Churchyard

With the growing interest in genealogy, the tracing of family ancestors, enquiries have grown over the past few years for details from our registers, matched to inscriptions of headstones in St Peter's Churchyard. Therefore, at the beginning of 2009, Ralph Bennett, with the assistance of Claire Cooper, commenced a

physical survey in order to update and complete a new plan of the whole Churchyard.

Associated with this was an all-encompassing re-cataloguing of all our burial records and registers. This involved many journeys by Ralph to the Records Office in Winchester. As he was not permitted to photograph the pages of registers, Ralph had to input every detail by hand into his laptop computer. This was an enormous achievement, as the first record began in 1695, with many entries barely legible through age.

As a result we now have a cross-referenced record that provides an excellent resource for all enquiries, which means very often that previously obscure searches can now be quickly answered. We owe Ralph an extreme debt of gratitude for all his hard work. As an added benefit, Ralph and Claire rejoiced to be able to observe every change of season and growth in the Churchyard over a whole year. Thank you to them both.

Peter Cooper

The Children's Society

The Children's Society is one of the charities this Parish has supported for many years. Last year £366.90 was raised through the newly-formatted Christingle Gift Services, much of which was saved in dedicated Christingle 'candle' collecting tubes. Cash collections at our Christmas Services came to a further £321.59 for the Society, with a similar amount also going to our general Parish Funds. This means the total sent to the Children's Society last year came to £688.49.

Although about 20 people hold special Children's Society boxes, saving throughout the year, these were not collected in during 2009. They are due to be collected in early 2010, so anyone else who would like to keep a collecting box at home please contact our representative:

Penny Parkhurst or the Rector

Uganda Supper 2009

Saturday, January 17 was the annual Uganda Supper at St Luke's church. Over 80 people, aged from 2 to 82, enjoyed a bewildering choice of 7 suppers and 14 desserts then basked in Ugandan sunshine. The English weather again obliged with a torrential downpour at the end of the evening.

The Supper is one of the main fund-raisers supporting the work of Pastors in the very poor rural

areas around Kampala as they seek to provide education and a safe environment to children orphaned by malaria or HIV/Aids.

The work has been really God blessed and the pastors and children thank all who help and support them. They pray for us all continually.

2009 was the first year of Dr Nick and Kate Wooding's work in nearby Kampala, so the funds raised at this year's supper (£800) were divided equally between their work within the Church Missionary Society (CMS) and the children's work in Kasambya, Naalya and Namugoga.

2010's Supper will show how this money was spent: building and painting classrooms, providing resources for the children and buying animals to help the poorest families support themselves.

Thank you to all who came.

Christine and Bryan Watson

Overseas Mission Links

This has been a really encouraging year in parish mission. We were introduced to our CMS mission partners, Nick and Kate Wooding in January when they visited St Paul's and St Luke's Churches. We have followed their preparations throughout the year, culminating in them moving to Uganda in August to begin their work. On our part, we have fulfilled our commitment to support them both in prayer and financially. As a parish we have raised over £1,351 through our Lent Campaign, Harvest Offerings and other events. Thank you to all for your generosity in both giving and helping out.

People from our parish have given support to an ecumenical mission activity in Uganda, most notably Christine and Bryan Watson who not only go to Uganda to give 'hands on' support but, with others, raise money throughout the year to finance this practical work.

Myles Ridley

Christian Aid Week

'United, we can change the world.'

St Paul's:

During Christian Aid Week 2009, 13 door-to-door volunteers from St Paul's Church collected £722.24 from 275 homes around Tadley. A further 3 volunteers helped with the combined churches' collection from shoppers inside Sainsbury's, collecting £547.22.

In total Churches Together Around Tadley raised £5,710.00 through the whole Week. Despite the harsh economic times the people of Tadley have shown great generosity towards the world's poorest communities.

Thank you to all who gave up their time to distribute and collect envelopes and count the donations.

Janet Glancey

St Luke's:

Members of St Luke's Church and others rallied round and were very supportive making the organisation of distribution and collecting of envelopes during Christian Aid a wonderful combined effort.

There were 17 door-to-door distributors and collectors and we were responsible for 29 roads. We collected £1,430.02 of which some was Gift Aided, which would provide an additional amount.

Many, many thanks to everyone who volunteered to distribute and collect envelopes and also to those who volunteered to count. You helped to make this an excellent result for Christian Aid to support people in need and I do hope that we can do well again in 2010.

Gloria Sharman

Ecumenical

Through 2009, Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) entered a new phase with a series of Open Forums. By the end of the year CTAT was ready to agree a revised constitution, in time to elect new officers for the first time in a decade. From early in 2010 the Moderator has been our Rector, Peter Cooper, with appointed Secretary, Treasurer and Administrator providing the signatories to take on the funds and bank account.

The ministers have met regularly almost every month over a working, sandwich lunch. In July, we said farewell to Salvation Army Captains Paul and Glenda Holifield, warmly welcoming their replacement, Captain Teresa Everett.

The main annual events have been the January United Worship and the Good Friday Walk of Witness, though through the Forum other ideas are also being followed up. A new monthly CTAT diary of events, across all twelve churches, has enabled individuals to be more aware of what is happening

across Tadley in each of the Christian fellowships. Before the end of the year plans were well under way to enable an ecumenical Lent Course, following the latest one published by York Courses.

In a place such as Tadley it is often better for the churches to work together, as increased numbers provide a greater visibility. It is hoped that we, along with all the churches, will seize every opportunity we can to be a Christian witness across the whole of Tadley, Pamber Heath, Bughurst and Silchester.

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.