

St John the Baptist Church, Purbrook

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2008

The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist is situated in London Road, Purbrook. It is part of the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 9 Marelswood Gardens, Purbrook, Hants. PO7 5RS.

The Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC Members at the date of the AGM are  
Churchwardens

Brian Stubbs

Dave Choppen

PCC diocesan representative Ted Harfield

PCC Members Lesley Brown Maureen Francis (Treasurer) Bill Jeffery (acting Chair)

Val Jeffery

Lesley Moore

Eve Mountain

Frank Pegg

Lesley Stubbs Diane Coulson Howard Coulson Ted Harfield

The year ended with 84 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. 51 of whom are not resident within the parish,

Average Eucharist attendance amounted to 65 adults; the best attended services: Remembrance Sunday, Easter Sunday, Mothering Sunday and the Christmas period services.

The full PCC met 6 times

There was a continuing emphasis this year on Church finances following on from making good the deficit in our funds in 2007 to ensure that we pay our Parish Share in full, together with the running costs of the church. The year has seen an increased emphasis on collecting funds to address the necessary repairs to the Church Tower. In more detail the accounts show that we have increased Restricted funds (including the tower fund) over the year by £8193.00 however a deficit in unrestricted funds means an end of year balance reduced by £4944.00. Total funds showed a surplus of £3248.00.

A great variety of events have been organized to aid fund raising; such events are great opportunities for fellowship. One highlight: An Auction of Promises raised funds and much local endeavor as well as some very creative ideas for the auction including a promise to

paint the Church Hall interior by one congregant for which St John's remains grateful, users of the hall benefit from this great act of generosity.

The "100 Club" continues to provide a monthly reward for the winning members, many winners being generous enough to contribute their winnings back into Church Funds.

The PCC are grateful to those working with our children and young people for their commitment and hard work. The Church would be a poorer place without the energy of children around Church activities. The monthly family service is always a highlight in worship, as is the Kidzone feedback section each week in the morning service where the Children explain their activities to the Vicar. The Kidzone Puppet club demonstrated their talents to the congregation and visited local sheltered housing schemes to entertain residents.

Our Church Hall continued to be well used both by regular booking by local third party groups as well as one-off bookings. The Montessori School continues to work well within the Church Hall.

The Coffee shop provides Purbrook residents with a place to go; open six days a week, it provides an opportunity to meet and enjoy the coffee and cake. Manned entirely by a well run team of volunteers its success justifies continuing.

St John's 150th anniversary was a highlight of the year; an historical, pictorial, and oral retrospective attracted much praise as did the Flower festival, which for the anniversary filled the church with wonderful displays from all sections of the Parish. A new altar cloth created by the congregation, produced by teams of sewing volunteers was resplendent drawing visitors from the Parish and beyond.

The decision taken in 2007 that the church should be open every day during daylight hours has proved popular. That there is somewhere to retreat for quiet, reflection and prayer is much welcomed. Prayer cards are available for people to take away and also a book for prayer requests.

We continue to support our link parish, Odumase in Ghana and, for another year, proceeds of the church Christmas Card were provided to support this link. We continue to support the work of the two nominated St. John's charities by a Retiring Collection four Sundays a year. Christmas presents were sent again this year to the residents of The Grange.

St John's has been blessed to receive a number of generous bequests throughout the year, for which we remain grateful, such gifts make such a difference to Church funds but also does remind us of the place St John's has in the hearts of its members.

St John's loss was The Church of the Resurrection's gain when ordinand Trevor Filtness departed following his Ordination. His time with us, as we grew with him through his development, was always enlightening. Many parishioners shared his joy at the ordination ceremony in Portsmouth Cathedral. Revd. Trevor donated a digital projector on his leaving in gratitude for his time with St John's, as an aid to worship, for which we give thanks.

The year ended with the news that Rev. Karen was to retire, the Christmas period being her last in charge at St John's, Revd Karen found a place in the hearts of many and her

time with the the church has seen many changes for the better and she has re-established the parish with her energy and guidance such that the new incumbent (when selected) will have a strong foundation from which to work. Our sadness at our loss was mixed with her joy at being able to engage more fully in the life of her family and especially more time with her beloved grandchildren.

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S' COMMITTEE

This Committee works well and provides cohesion for our Children's work within the Church.

**CHILD PROTECTION.** Our Child Protection Officer, Sue Pheasant, covers this very effectively, and all workers have CRB certification. They are also expected to keep up to date with Child Protection Training lectures offered by the Diocese.

**COMPASSION.** Kidzone children and leaders sponsor Ana Carolina, a 7 year old girl in Brazil. The cost of sponsorship is £18 a month. There is no obligation on the children as leaders are ultimately responsible for finding the money. The children receive photos and letters from Carolina and are encouraged to write to her in return.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING.** Ben Mizen, Diocesan Youth Officer, organizes various training events which we take advantage of.

**ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN JUNE~.** Kidzone and Puppet group both presented a flower display for the Flower Festival and also took part in the Altar Frontal. The Youth Committee with Mark Cluett, youth worker for the Purbrook area, organized a children's party for 50 children from the Community as part of the Celebrations. Mark Cluett organized the evening Disco for older youth.

**CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP (for the Community).** On Saturday 1st November we welcomed 25 children to an Alternative Halloween Workshop, "Looking towards the Light". Craft, singing, games, story and Puppet Show took place. Great fun.

**GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS.** The leaders try to encourage their children to attend the Family Service, with only limited success. Children's workers have a good rapport with Guide leaders.

**KIDZONE** This venture is thriving, we have 20 children on the books. Unfortunately their attendance is not regular so we could have 8 or 18 attend on any given Sunday,. We use the Roots material as our source for learning which up until recently has been very creative and imaginative. Our sessions are based on the lectionary, we usually have a rewarding, interesting and "fun" time.

Outing to Fisher's Farm Park on Saturday 14th June. Always a success. we paid for the children from Strawberry Tea money and Mike Schmidt drove us, guided us, gave the cost of the minibus as a gift. Much appreciated.

Christmas Party on Sunday 21 8t December after church. We had to use the upper room as the Hall was booked. Surprisingly this was a huge success, being more intimate than the large Hall

PUPPET GROUP. This is thriving. Numbers fluctuate a little, but we have a basic core of 6 children. Some from St. John's, some from outside. We gave a performance of Squire Deverall and the building of the Church at the June Celebrations. A performance for the Children's Workshop in November. A Nativity performance for Millennium Court in December and a Nativity performance for the Church in December.

## BELL RINGERS

The past year has seen another increase in our total members, we now have 21- ten of these are juniors - the oldest of which is just 15.

We, the ringers, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Church for their continued support in allowing us to invite other groups into the Tower and "have a go" as we have recruited several new members by doing this. It's not only the uniformed organizations, such as Brownies Guides Scouts etc, attending - we have 'entertained' both the ladies and the gentlemen from St George's Group and Vintage Wine from Crookhorn to name a few. All who come are made welcome and wherever possible we give a guided tour of the Church itself, these evenings are always well attended and the groups enjoy the experience.

We have continued with our 'special ringing' in order to raise more funds for the Church roof repairs.

## BROADWAYS COFFEE SHOP

Our Coffee Shop continues to thrive. We are open Monday - Friday 10 a.m - 2 p.m and Saturday 10.00 a.m to 1.00 p.m.

Our small staff of willing volunteers work very hard to keep the shop clean and tidy and have encouraged many new friends to come in and enjoy beverage, hot pasties & sausage rolls, cakes & biscuits, both to eat in or take away, we also sell cakes. We feel proud that we are a very good source of outreach in the parish. Staff includes Methodists & Roman Catholics. We sincerely hope that everyone feels that they are made welcome, whether they want a quiet coffee or some company.

'We are well supported by the general public, but slightly disappointed by the lack of support from our congregation. All the money we make is for our church. Please do drop in and see for yourself the work we are doing, perhaps you will have some thoughts which may improve and be useful to us. You may even wish to join us as a volunteer. Above all do visit and support us.

Christopher Yeo Brian Stubbs ,Joint CEOs Broadways Coffee Shop

Mary,Bobbie,Kristian~Cheryl,Ruth,Roy,Peggy,Joan,Barbara,Christine,Diana, Lesley  
Kate,Pat,

Key volunteer Staff.

100 CLUB

The Club has 68 Members at present so there is space for more. Anyone is eligible to join family and friends. Each month the prize is £20 except that in February and August, when it is £50

## FUNDRAISING 2008

We held a few events last year to raise money for the Church Tower and Roof repair Fund

The first was an Auction of Promises in which we were lucky to secure the services of John Handscomb who successfully led the evening as our Auctioneer. We are very grateful to John and Jackie. Although not well attended, the evening raised £1,500

In May, we had a Plant and Cake Sale with plants from Redhill Nursery and from members of our Congregation, who also provided homemade cakes and preserves. Only a few plants remained at the end!

A Quiz night followed which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Linda Smith who organized the Quiz

An Autumn fair in September was followed by the Christmas Fair which raised about £800. A very respectable sum!

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PURBROOK

PRECIS of our FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the year ended 31st December 2008

### Unrestricted Funds

#### INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary income	35,902
Activities for generating funds	20,162
Income from investments	224
Income from church activities	18,843
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	75,131
RESOURCES EXPENDED	
Church activities	78,422
Cost of generating voluntary income	0
Fund-raising trading costs	20
Governance costs	0
Other resources expended	0
Support costs	1,633
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	80,076
NET INCOMING(OUTGOING) RESOURCE	-4,944