

**Summary Minutes
of the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Held 5th April 2009**

Attendance: The meeting took place in the context of a special service of Morning Worship. The reports from the various groups that make up activities of the Church were included in a booklet distributed to the congregation. Full copies of the previous years (2008) APCM minutes were available as were full copies of the Examined Accounts.

Election of Churchwardens: There were 2 nominations. Nick Burt nominated by Femi Nzegwu and seconded by Pauline Pepperrell and Joan Botterill nominated by Claire Wachter and seconded by Marion Bird. Both duly elected.

The meeting was chaired by Joan Botterill in the absence of the Rev. George Howard

1. **Minutes of the meeting on 27th April 2008** were approved with no abstentions.
2. **Apologies** were received from Rev. George Howard and Chris Howard.
3. **Matters arising:** there were no matters arising.
4. **Appointment of Independent Examiners:** Messrs. LeRoy Reid & Co. of Northborough Road, Norbury were again appointed examiners.
5. **Elections:** PCC There were 4 places to be filled with 4 persons nominated- Neils Ribeiro Jnr., Paullette Braithwaite, Emma Morrice and Judy Douglas. Details of those proposing and seconding are on the attachment to the signed minutes. All duly elected.
6. **Deputy Wardens & Sidespersons:** The Deputy Wardens and Sidespersons as previous.

7. Reports:

Finance: copies of the accounts having been displayed and available. Nick Burt proposed that the accounts be accepted and Albert Spencer seconded. No abstentions. Nick Burt drew attention to the published accounts, giving a verbal summary. In conclusion Nick, as Church Warden, thanked Graham for all he does as regards the accounts and members for their continuous support. And of course, we should all give thanks to our God and Father for his abundant goodness and provision for all our needs.

Building and Fabric Report: was given by Nick Burt, detailed in the full minutes.

Halls Development Project: given by Nick Burt, detailed in the full minutes.

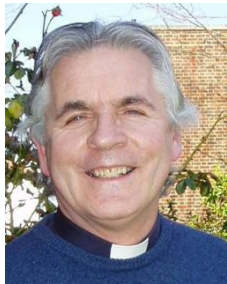
There were other brief verbal reports concerning Little Fishes, Splash and Dad's Breakfast drawing attention to the written reports in the booklet.

FYC Report: was given by Pete Marsden, drawing attention to the report in the booklet. The meeting then divided into groups to have the opportunity for discussion. Three questions to be asked regarding the Hall Development Project. A list to be produced from these providing the relevant information and to be given to all P.C.C. members for further discussion.

8. Conclusion:

Joan gave thanks on behalf of the church family to George and Chris and would write to them expressing our thanks.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS REPORT



It is always a pleasure at this time of year to write this introduction to the report on the work of the Church through the year. It's not that I like writing reports! Those who know me will not disagree! Rather, it is because it gives me a chance to reflect on what others are doing and it makes me feel very proud to be a part of it.

I want to thank all those who have written the reports and the even greater number who contribute to our mission at St. James. A report, by definition, is about the past. But this document holds great hopes and vision for the future. We have built this report around our Mission Statement which is "To grow in knowing God and in making Him known". We have said that we will do this as we GROW UP, GROW OUT AND GROW TOGETHER. So our reporting this year ought to reflect this.

There are at least two things we could say. First, the inescapable truth that many people contribute in a whole variety of different ways to the work at St. James. We are a team, and every individual contribution is important to the mission of the whole. I see this each week as I pass through The Well. It is a place buzzing with warmth and acceptance, a fact upheld by the number of people who use it. But we know that this doesn't just happen. The contributions of many make it work. I was particularly impressed recently, when visiting a person who attends the Well regularly but doesn't come on Sundays very much. She said that it made her feel like she belonged to St. James'. This was her Church.

But these reports also speak to us about service. It is always a challenge to hear the stories of those who, week after week, continue to give of their best, often in the most trying of circumstances. Proof of this can be found in any meeting of the directors of FYC or in the contribution of our Pastoral Team. In every case, such work is possible because people team together to serve. This is no better seen than in the work of the Musicians who lead our worship every week. Their willingness to serve is seen in the way they turn up so early on Sundays! They go way beyond the call of duty to serve God in their service of us. This report is testament to all the work done by many in the Church. Our thanks go to them.

Please continue to pray for each other, that our relationship with God might deepen and work for Him be fruitful.

George.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

PCC Meetings:

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year. The average attendance was 70% (previously 75%).
1 member resigned during the year due to relocation.

Committees:

The PCC operates through a number of task groups, which have met between full meetings of the PCC, to whom they are responsible and to whom they report.

Church Attendance:

The Church Electoral Roll records 147 (previously 143) persons as members of the Church, 95 of whom are not resident within the parish.

The average Sunday attendance, counted during October and November was 103 plus 36 under the age of 16.

The number increased at festivals.

Review of the year:

The various activity groups will highlight their activities during the year by giving reports at the APCM or in the Report Booklet.

The activities of the parish insofar as they impinge upon the Statement of Financial Activities have been as follows:

1. The parish's contribution to the central fund of the Diocese of Southwark (the Fairer Shares Assessment) remains the principle item of expenditure at £63,391 for 2009 (£61,445 - 2008) has been paid in full .
2. Regular voluntary contributions from members of the congregation remain the principle source of income. Income resources from donors for unrestricted purposes amounted to £142,198 (£117,116 - 2008).

An Advent Thanksgiving gift day was held with a commitment that the first £5,500 of donations would be given to support the work of the "Arise" apprenticeship scheme in South Africa. The resulting donations of £26,491 along with the associated Gift Aid of £5,021 enabled £5,500 to be donated to "Arise" and the balance made available to the General Fund for unrestricted purposes.

An outreach and fund raising event (Christmas Extravaganza) was held with a resulting profit of £1,826 to be split between Children's Ministry and the work of the Furzedown Youth Centre. The Youth Centre was also supported by the donation from the PCC of the £21,250 rental due on the lower hall to the PCC and by the payment of utility bills.

The PCC continues to encourage the congregation to give to the Church in a regular and committed way using one of the stewardship schemes. Tax efficient regular giving to the General Fund amounted to £76,119 (£77,894 - 2008) and with other Gift Aided donations to the General Fund £23,592 (£21,951- 2008) was claimed in Gift Aid.

In addition to various generous donations and bequest a legacy of £30,000 was received from the late Mary Sibley's estate.

The PCC's commitment to supporting all aspects of mission resulted in £41,981 being granted (£33,584 - 2008). £36,103 from unrestricted income and £5,878 from restricted income.

Total Incoming resources amounted to £267,615 (£272,695 2008) of which £14,029 was restricted. Total resources used amounted to £236,060 (250,208 2008) of which £12,883 was expenditure on restricted items.

The generosity of the people of St. James continues to be a source of both encouragement and humility. It is encouraging that we have been able to welcome new faces into the congregation. It is hoped that newcomers will soon become full and active members of our Electoral Roll.

3. The Churches of St Alban's (C of E) and Mitcham Lane Baptist continue to work closely together sharing a vision of mission in the community, especially in the area of ministry to young people both through Sunday groups and through the work of the FYC.
4. The Church continues its commitment to Children's Ministry. Apart from groups on Sundays Bible based activities and social activities for children most days of the week. These activities are often shared with the other churches. Little Fishes continues to grow although limited space and staffing means that unfortunately it is necessary to restrict the numbers each Thursday. The first Baptism within Little Fishes took place in 2009.
5. The Church and PCC is reviewing its strategy for the Development Project. The commitment to the major financial project of the raising of funds to enable the development of the Furzedown Youth Centre remains solid. The Church has been able to increase its financial support this year. The Church views FYC as a major resource for the young people in the surrounding community. The Youth Centre meets for its activities in the Lower Hall and is restricted by the lack of facilities that the Hall has to offer. A great deal of work continues to be done behind the scenes with the architect and other specialist engineers.

Building and Fabric Report

In terms of our buildings, 2009/10 has been another relatively quiet year, with little to report except for general on-going maintenance and minor repairs. Some work was needed to the electrical wiring, following the regular inspection, and the opportunity was taken to replace the chancel lighting with more efficient units. Also, we reordered the cupboards at the back of church to tidy our storage.

The slow subsidence of the main entrance vestibule appears to have slowed this year, but we will continue to monitor this carefully. We renewed the flooring in this area and redecorated. In the Halls, despite the improved security, there were further break-ins and theft of electrical items. As a result, FYC have recently had an intruder alarm system installed, which is monitored and linked to the police.

With regard to the Halls Development, the project has continued to make progress, albeit with not much visible sign of work underway. The architect's plans and specification are almost complete, with a few issues concerning Building and Fire Regulations outstanding, which we hope will be settled soon. In the current economic climate, major sources of funding for the whole project appear to have dried up. In the meantime, we together with FYC have been seeking to find ways that we can progress with the most urgent items of work, while keeping to the overall plans. We are continuing to seek funding for the heating system, for double glazed windows and for water proofing, and FYC have been given a number of specific donations to improve the environment in the lower hall for the youth work. We hope to see some work commence in the next few months to the ceiling, lighting, doors and decoration.

In the light of our on-going commitment to the Halls Development, we have put on hold consideration of the options for redeveloping 171 Mitcham Lane to maximise the usefulness of this resource for our ministry, while preserving the possibility of housing a full time curate in the years to come. In the meantime, the house is occupied and is bringing in rental income to support the church finances.

Nick Burt

Extracted Information from the Accounts**Various items of Income**

	2009	2008
Gift Aided Giving via Bank Standing Orders	47,235	48,561
Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	28,944	27,504
Non Gift Aided Giving via Standing Orders	500	880
Non Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	3,562	3,859
Giving via Plate Collection	6,019	6,051
Donations to the General Fund (day to day housekeeping fund)	3,241	4,605
Advent Thanksgiving Gifts	21,469	17,686
Gift Aid received on Giving to the General Fund	23,592	21,951
Gift Aid received on Advent Thanksgiving Gifts	5,021	4,350
Legacies received	31,358	1,000
Grants received (Hall Redevelopment)	0	50,000
Donations for Crosslinks (Alun and Debbie Burt)	3,877	4,226
Letting/Hire of Upper Hall	18,380	16,866
Letting/Hire of Church and Centre	3,963	3,355
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	2,940	1,843
Traidcraft Sales	637	737
Bible Study Notes Sales	528	369
Well Coffee and Cake sales	2,840	2,815
Rental Income from 171 Mitcham Lane	13,200	14,700
Bank Interest (The effects of low interest rates)	49	1,437
Children's Ministry Receipts (Get Set, Little Fishes, Holiday clubs etc)	2,461	1,437

Extracted Information from the Accounts**Various items of Expenditure**

	2009	2008
Fairer Shares (Contribution to Diocese)	63,391	61,444
Church Insurance	5,440	5,528
Hall Insurance	1,361	1,311
Church Utilities	6,606	6,766
Hall Utilities	4,573	3,486
Church Maintenance	6,665	2,865
Hall Maintenance	2,617	4,023
Contribution to shared Churches Youth Ministries	1,000	1,000
Salaries and Support (including National Insurance)	58,159	47,887
Hall Project Expenses	4,953	44,033
Funding Application Expenses (Hall Project)	0	1,851
Clergy Expenses	1,551	1,144
Church Catering	1,891	936
Printing and Production (including paper etc)	4,633	3,939
Postage and Telephone	1,499	1432
Office Consumables	855	453
Examination of Accounts	1,000	862
Overseas Mission Support	5,219	4,500
Mission Support through Tithe on Regular Giving (part year pending)	9,137	11,064
Crosslinks Donations (Non Tithe)	5,219	4,500

St. James Church. West Streatham
Balance Sheet
As of: 31 December 2009

	Note	2009 (£)	2008 (£)
Fixed assets			
Curates House 171 Mitcham Lane	17b	100,613.00	100,613.00
Minibus P442 VGC	18	1.00	937.50
Total Fixed assets		100,614.00	101,550.50
Current assets			
Barclays Current a/c 00196878		29,915.70	8,020.32
Barclays High/Int a/c 10921513		93,235.48	88,186.46
CBF Deposit a/c 637068001D		2,497.00	2,329.59
Cash a/c (Cash in hand)		114.55	1,173.72
CBF 137002310D Trust 0652		8,658.62	8,658.62
Debtors Sundry Various		1,341.99	200.00
Sundry Prepayments		38.55	180.00
Debtor 171 Tenant		1,100.00	
Debtor Ecclesiastical Ins.		845.00	
Debtor Hall & Centre Hire		2,546.00	2,220.00
Debtor Youth Centre Hire		630.00	
Debtor HM Revenue G/Aid		15,876.08	12,795.72
Total Current assets		156,798.97	123,764.43
Liabilities			
Agency collections			
Hall Develop Loan 01	19	1,000.00	1,000.00
Hall Develop Loan 02	20	2,000.00	2,000.00
Creditor/Accrual Gas Electric		0.10	1,164.71
Accrual Accountant		1,000.00	860.00
Creditor HMC& R PAYE NI		- 2.97	
Cr/Accruals Sundry		1,719.00	1,533.33
Accrual Misn/Tithe		3,102.00	1,717.00
Total Liabilities		8,818.13	8,275.04
Net Asset surplus		248,594.84	217,039.89

		As at 31/12/2009	As at 31/12/2008
Represented by Funds			
Unrestricted General	14	4,718.64	15,867.47
Unrestricted Designated	15	128,164.53	86,606.05
Restricted	16	15,098.67	13,953.37
Endowment	17a	100,613.00	100,613.00
Total		248,594.84	217,039.89

St. James Church. West Streatham
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2009 to 31 December 2009

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	Prior year
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from donors	1	142,198.79	247.00		142,445.79	138,019.74
Other voluntary incoming resources	2	36,199.30	11,383.65		47,582.95	79,915.90
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects	3	51,373.74	1,688.00		53,061.74	25,435.52
Activities for generating funds	4	7,041.76	106.50		7,148.26	8,474.69
Income from investments	5	13,466.43			13,466.43	16,774.57
Other incoming resources	6	3,306.67	603.48		3,910.15	4,074.61
Total incoming resources		253,586.69	14,028.63		267,615.32	272,695.03
Resources Used						
Costs of generating funds	7	1,005.38			1,005.38	577.54
Activities relating to the work of the church	8	121,439.97	2,051.70		123,491.67	112,927.37
Salaries and Support costs	9	58,159.62			58,159.62	47,886.39
Church management and administration	10	2,773.19			2,773.19	2,140.76
Major capital expenditure	11	2,693.25	4,953.73		7,646.98	52,229.76
Governance Costs (examination)	12	1,002.50			1,002.50	862.50
All Mission Giving & Charitable Grants & Donations	13	36,103.13	5,877.90		41,981.03	33,583.92
Total resources used		223,177.04	12,883.33		236,060.37	250,208.24
Net incoming/ outgoing resources before transfer		30,409.65	1,145.30		31,554.95	22,486.79
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds-in		22,139			22,139	
Gross transfers between funds-out		-22,139			-22,139	
Net incoming/ outgoing before other gains/losses		30,409.65	1,145.30		31,554.95	22,486.79
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use						
Net movement in funds		30,409.65	1,145.30		31,554.95	22,486.79
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		102,473.52	13,953.37	100,613.00	217,039.89	194,553.10
Total funds carried forward		132,883.17	15,098.67	100,613.00	248,594.84	217,039.89

GROWING UP

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

Little Fishes

Little Fishes, a group for pre-school children and their carers, continues to meet on a Thursday morning from 10am. There are toys and a craft activity for the children, before a short, toddler friendly service in the church. It is very popular and this year we continue our policy of allowing no more than thirty children in each week.

It is really exciting to see how keen the mums, and the toddlers, are to come to Little Fishes every week; we usually have a large queue waiting when we open the doors. The team that runs Little Fishes is at full stretch, helping with the children, organising the service, making coffee, and most importantly, lending a listening ear to the mums and carers who come, so it was great that two more church mums have joined the team. This weekly event is a really meaningful part of the church's ministry to the community and we continue to explore ways of involving the families we meet into the life of the church and the church family.

Get Set

Get Set meets every Tuesday after school. It is for children in school years reception - year2. It is partnered with **Get Active** now called **Kids zone** which meets at St Albans and is for Children in school years 3-6.

The children come to Get Set straight after school and we give them juice and cake. We usually start with a craft activity and then games, before having some singing and bible teaching. We continue to use a resource from a charity called CURBS (Children in Urban Situations), as well as some resources from Scripture Union. Topics this year have included 'David the shepherd King' where we learnt about the life of David and his relationship to Jesus and 'Luke Street' which told the stories of the homes where Jesus visited and healed, as told by Luke.

The main concern with Get Set is that it continues to be a happy and safe environment where the children enjoy coming. We also hope that as the children become too old for Get Set they will move up happily to Get Active. As always we continue to look for opportunities to develop our relationships with the children and their families and to invite them to other activities within the church, including occasional services.

Dad's Breakfast

Dad's Breakfast runs on the last Saturday of the month between 8am and 10am. It is for dads and their younger children. The aim is that the fathers get to spend time with their children and other dads whilst eating bacon sandwiches, drinking coffee and reading the paper, whilst mums get a lie in.

It has proved very popular and we are building up a group of regulars. Most of the children have contact with the church through one or more of the other groups, but it's not often that we get to meet the Dads.

My hope is that this group will continue to grow in a manageable way and deepen our contact with the families of the children who we see in the week.

Holiday Clubs

We have run two Holiday Clubs this year:

- A week long one called **Champions' Challenge**, a Scripture Union resource with an Olympic theme, which we ran at the end of July. We had 40 children aged 5-11 each day to this and a

great time was had by all. The children were from many of the mid week groups as well as from the church family. The week ended at the Sunday morning Worship Together service to which most of the children and their families came.

- A **Christmas Holiday Club** which ran for one day. We had 40 children (our limit) attend this and we did lots of craft and games around the theme of Christmas.

Contact with schools

We continue our contact with the local primary schools Eardley and Penwortham. I take a Key Stage 1 and a Key Stage 2 assembly in each school once a month. In addition we have started a weekly lunch club at Eardley called 'Get Set at Eardley'.

Sunday Groups

Our Sunday groups are doing well and the children always seem to enjoy themselves. We have changed the resources which we use to Scripture Union, which is working well. This change has also brought about a change in group names: Bubbles (nursery and reception) who meet in the church centre; Splash (years 1-3) who meet in the hall and Xstream (years 4-6) who also meet in the hall. In addition we all meet together once or twice a term for a Power Zone.

Godly Play

Many of our children's leaders recently went on some training at St Mary's Church, Putney, in Godly Play. In addition to this Laura, Chris and Carol attended a two day course on it. Godly play is something we are hoping to introduce to our teaching.

Godly Play is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture. It can be used in a variety of settings like churches, schools, hospitals and care homes for the elderly. Godly Play is based on long established, tried and tested approaches. It uses symbols and objects as well as words. It values process, openness and discovery, and encourages people to make meaning for themselves.

CURBS Hub

St. James' has been asked to become a 'hub' for the charity CURBS as they develop their training and support of Christian work with children. As a hub we will be asked to host some of their training in our area of London, and perhaps link supportively with other churches seeking to develop their children's work. In return, we receive free access to all the CURBS resources. This is still in its embryonic stages and we are hoping it will develop in an exciting way over the next few years.

Laura Knight.

SUNDAY YOUTH GROUPS:

Resonate.

Age group: 11 - 14's.

Leaders: Claire Jones, Sarah Hosford, Mike White, John & Claire Wachter, David Shepherd, Andrew Isabiye, Stu Leeds, Simon Blackley, Howard Battersby and Dave Doran.

This year has been a very exciting time to be involved in Resonate.

A trip to Soul Survivor in the summer and time away at Carrot Wood have been highlights of a good year. The young people have been growing in Faith and a number of young people have given their lives to Jesus.

We have spent a considerable amount of time in the **Freedom In Christ** for Young People Course, as well as studying the Book of Daniel and a series on Psalms. Next term we will be looking at the Old Testament and how that relates to the church.

More importantly though is the week in week out time spent with the young people, the commitment of the leaders and the support of the churches.

Resonate have also led worship at St James' and St Alban's.

We currently are running a small group on Tuesday evening's between 5pm and 6pm at F.Y.C. all Resonate members are welcome.

Please pray for the young people as they grow in faith and discover what the Lord has for their lives.

Pray for the leaders as their will be significant change to the team this year.

Deeper Connection.

Age group: 15+

Leaders: Ros Thomson, Stu Thomson, David Mason, Judy Douglas and Emma Simmonds (Morrice).

Deeper Connection has become established and is now a place where young Christians are growing as a group and developing as participants in their own churches.

I want to give a special mention to Serving Sunday which is the third Sunday of each month, when the young people are serving in the different ministry areas in the church. We really want to encourage the young people to own the churches they belong to.

D.C. meets twice per month and they are also following the **Freedom In Christ** Course.

The leaders have worked really hard at building relationships and strengthening the group.

Please encourage the young people and help them to be involved in the life of the church.

Please pray for the young people as they make decisions for their futures, and live following Jesus daily.

Pray for the leaders, that the team will grow and that Deeper Connection will be a sustainable work amongst the churches.

Dave Doran.

WORSHIP GROUP:

The Music Worship Group continues to go through its time of change. We are few in number but have been encouraged by the addition of a couple of new singers. As before, God leads us on, providing ideas and people to grow our church family into 'heart worshippers'. We have a long way to go in this area but we are learning and we have been blessed with musicians willing to use their gifts to serve God at St. James.

The group continues to meet together for worship, planning and occasionally to learn new music. We turn up at St. James for 9:00am every Sunday morning, to prepare for the service. This enables us to develop our own worship and also to be the best we can be each Sunday. There is no doubt that we need more musical support, be it drums, bass, guitar or keyboards. If you have any aspiring talent in these areas please speak to George or Marcus.

We wish to say a very big thank you to the sound team who get to St. James even earlier than the musicians every Sunday to set up, rehearse with us and shape the sound that you hear week by week. There are new people learning this skill and we are grateful to them for their help.

The purpose of the music group has always been to support the worshipping life of St. James through music, whether in a Sunday morning service, or in any other forum where music-led worship is appropriate. Our aim is to facilitate people, through music, to give glory to God and to meet with Him in intimacy and reverence. Our goal is that we enable this for all who come to St. James - believer and non-believer, regular and visitor. Please pray for us that we will grow in our love for worshipping God and in our ability to help others to do the same.

George Howard.

HOME GROUPS:

At present there are four Home Groups meeting fortnightly - three meet in the evening, one in the daytime.

They are really appreciated by the members. Looking at the Bible together, discussion, prayer and social events help us to get to know each other better and to grow in our faith.

There is always room for new people to join - do get in touch with me if you are interested.

Joan Botterill.

GROWING OUT

Mission

As a Church, we support the Furzedown Youth Centre, Alun and Debbie Burt and Jenny Green by interest, prayer and 10% of our regular giving.

Alun and Debbie Burt serve in Capetown, South Africa with Crosslinks working primarily with homeless people (Alun) and orphaned children (Debbie). We were glad to welcome them back to St. James when they visited us in the autumn together with their two children.

Jenny Green works in Kisoro, Uganda with the Church Mission Society where she is involved with children's ministry - training Sunday school teachers etc, and continuing to run "The Potter's Village" a baby home for orphaned and other needy children. Jenny is also on the staff of Kisoro Cathedral responsible for the English Service which now has a congregation of 200 people including some students.

Furzedown Youth Centre - see separate article in this booklet. A number of the Church Family are involved in a practical way on a regular basis.

Joan Botterill.

20th West Streatham Brownies

Brownies continues to meet every Monday evening during school term in the Upper Hall. We have over 40 Brownies and many more on the waiting list.

At long last we have an enthusiastic team of helpers, with many of the old brownies coming back to help as young leaders.

We have worked on our World Traveller Badge, where the Brownies have been in contact with and sent out letters to over 6 countries, we await their response. We have also put on a Circus which was an amazing success; parents and friends came along and were amazed at what the girls had achieved.

Brownies continues to be very rewarding, the atmosphere in the Hall on a Monday evening is amazing, with everyone joining in and getting along together. The Parents still continue to be very supportive of what we are doing and are willing to offer different skills if the needs arise.

2009/2010 sees the centenary celebrations of the guiding movement and we are looking to hear from past brownies in our community.

Pray for:

- The work of the Brownies and the Outreach opportunities we have.
- For all the leaders, Angie, Emma, Cate, Anna, our young leaders, Daisy, Rachel, Ella, Kerry, and Elizabeth and of course for me Glynis.
- How to cope with the waiting list at the moment about 50 waiting to join.

Glynis Wilkinson, Brown Owl.

The Well

The Well is certainly buzzing on Tuesday and Friday mornings. We have more and more people coming and the children are left happy with toys in the play area. The aim of the well is to provide a warm and welcoming venue for people to meet up.

John, Joan and Janet have also been able to bring some of the elderly/housebound members of the church family to enjoy a chat, a cup of tea and a change of scenery.

We are pleased that Catalina is now helping on Friday mornings. If you would be interested in helping sometimes, please speak to Liz.

We look forward to continued growing relationships with more in our local community.

Holiday at Home

The Holiday at Home attended by the older members of the church community in Furzedown/West Streatham in August 2009, was a great success. Participants enjoyed lunch together followed by a travel talk. Optional activities followed with talks on keeping fit and active, craft groups and an opportunity to reminisce about the past. Each afternoon finished with tea and cakes served by the Brownies. An outing took place on the Thursday of the week and the programme culminated with a cream tea to music accompaniment in the garden of St. James' vicarage.

Following the success of last year's Holiday at Home, attended by over 40, a further Holiday at Home will take place in August 2010. Details will be available towards the end of May. A launch of this year's programme will take place on Thursday 24th May, 2-4pm with a re-union tea for those who attended the Holiday at Home last year.

If you haven't already done so already, please speak to Sue Allen if you're interested in helping.

Furzedown Youth Centre

This year has seen the beginning of the 'Engaging Furzedown' project which is a three month pilot scheme to research the needs of young people who live or 'hang out' in the area, especially those who do not engage with any other services. A report is due in May but already the project has attracted interest from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Primary Care Trust whom we are working closely with to solve some of the problems encountered.

The Youth Forum, led by Angela, our Youth Coordinator, is well established now. The Forum has a voice concerning the governance of centre based activities and engages in fundraising projects to benefit the centre. They are currently working on ideas for redecoration of the centre and choosing the colours they want to paint the toilets after raising money for the project at the Christmas Extravaganza. They are exploring several new projects including a film to promote FYC, a community open day in the centre, linking with other community groups for the benefit of both and canvassing opinions at the Friday Club (FC) concerning what goes on there.

Drop In at FYC and Club zone which used to meet at St. Albans have combined into a Friday Club making FYC more accessible to those who live in the area rather than just those who go to school here. The move to Friday at the centre gives opportunities for more activities for more young people who live in the area.

A sessional worker has been appointed as Manager of Friday Club. Denis is a Christian with a passion for youth work. We welcome his enthusiasm and all round ability to engage with young people and his skills in everything from graffiti to street dance!

Two new directors were appointed to the board this year, Emma Revie of St. Paul's Furzedown and Femi Nzegwu from St. James. Both bring expertise in areas that benefit FYC enormously. Val Jackson of MLBC, Sarah Gawley of St. Albans (Company Secretary) and Carol Burt, St. James (Chairman) remain.

We said goodbye to Peter Marsden who so ably chaired the board for several years, managing the difficult and time consuming job of ensuring FYC was on a firm legal foundation. The churches responsible for setting up FYC are hugely grateful to Peter for the work he did to realise the vision we have for the young people in the community of Furzedown.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this work. Your prayers, interest and financial assistance are vital. Please continue to pray as there is still much to do. We are encouraged by how God has led us but hungry to do more to meet the needs of the young people whom God has given us a burden for.

Carol Burt.

First Sunday

This is an evening service held at 6.30 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at St. Alban's Church. It is a time for members of the Furzedown churches to come together for worship, prayer and praise in a more informal style service and offers an opportunity for occasional visiting speakers to explore various topics in a biblical context.

GROWING TOGETHER

Prayer Ministry

There have been some changes implemented during the year. Firstly, Prayer Ministry now has a permanent home at the back left hand corner of the Church. This is a more inviting spot than the Side Chapel - certainly being warmer!

We have had three new people join the permanent team and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the team, many of whom have served faithfully, and will hopefully continue to serve for some time. We have removed the Prayer Board for people's requests as this was getting very tatty but we hope to reinstate this in the near future.

We are continuing to look at ways we can improve our Prayer Ministry at St. James' in the hope that more people will be helped in their faith through this ministry.

Heather Wright.

Monthly Weekday Communion

There continues to be a service of Holy Communion on the first Tuesday of every month at 10a.m. This is followed by coffee and chat at the Well. All are welcome - so do come along and enjoy this quiet service.

Early Morning Prayer

A time of prayer is held each Tuesday from 8.30a.m. -9a.m. We pray for the needs of our own church family and the wider community. Do come join us if you are free.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team consists of Sue Clarke, Johan Allen, Sue Allen, Joan Botterill, John Farebrother, Val Hart, Dave Ingram, Femi Nzegwu, Neils Ribeiro, Winnie Smikle.

AIMS FOR 2009-2010

1. To continue to promote the concept of 'pastoral care for everyone by everyone'.
2. To monitor the pastoral needs of St James' and how those needs are being met through a process of monthly review meetings
3. To continue to provide events to support pastoral care such as the Men's events
4. To coordinate the transport of those with mobility difficulties to services and other church events
5. To meet the needs identified in pastoral survey
6. To develop policies and procedures for the care of vulnerable persons

Promote 'pastoral care for everyone by everyone'

A significant number of the St James' congregation are involved in informal pastoral care of church members in need. This is acknowledged and valued.

Home groups and other mid week groups remain a key focus for pastoral care. It is important that the topic is re-visited regularly to inform new members of the church and remind existing members of the importance of caring for one another.

Monitoring Meetings

The Pastoral Team meets monthly to review the pastoral needs of the church and confirm how needs are being met. A bi-monthly meeting overviews the programme of pastoral care development and identifies training needs.

It is hoped to run a second bereavement course in 2010.

Pastoral Events

The Men's' Events are now established and have 10-15 attending. Activities include social and spiritual content.

Events for Ladies'/Girls' are also proving very popular with 80+ attending. Whilst these are predominantly social in nature, they provide an opportunity for a night out for those who might otherwise not go out.

Transport Provision

With increasing needs for transport to church and church events, a rota has been formalised to ensure those requiring lifts can be helped.

New drivers are always needed to help with this important service.

Meeting needs identified in pastoral survey

Whilst the pastoral survey of 2008-2009 was generally positive in terms of the perception of pastoral care within the church, singles were identified as a specific group who felt less satisfied.

The Men's group is open to both married and single men.

More frequent 'Welcome Wine and Cheese' events had been proposed but have not required in 2009-2010. A Church Information Leaflet for newcomers is available together a visitors card for the pews.

It is proposed to use the names in the Church Directory to develop community groupings based on postcodes of church members to encourage and facilitate pastoral care at a local level. This is a work in progress.

Policies and Procedures for Care of Vulnerable Persons

Draft Policies and Procedures have been prepared and presented to the PCC during 2009-2010.

Susan E M Clarke.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle has enjoyed another year of activities meeting broadly once a month, either in the Church Centre or out and about in the minibus in the warmer weather.

This has been the year of the implementation of change. A small planning committee was formed from the membership around the time of last year's Church AGM and they have been planning and implementing the programme throughout the past year. Our thanks go to all the hard work they have put in to make the programme a reality.

Our year began in May 2009 with a visit from Nick Burt sharing his and Carol's experiences in visiting Alun and Debbie in South Africa earlier. We then visited Nyman's Gardens in Sussex later that month. In early July we enjoyed a lovely garden party in John and Sandra Rouse's house and garden on a hot sunny day. In early August members were able to enjoy the Holiday at Home Project at Mitcham Lane Baptist Church for most of one week which drew high acclaim and all are looking forward to this summer's venture. In October we welcomed the Manager of the Furzedown Project to talk to us about their work and later that month we visited Garson's Farm, Esher. In November Joan Botterill came to talk about her visit earlier in the year to Burundi and in December we enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Toby Carvery Mitcham. With the New Year in February we had a talk about the Classic Post Office including British Telecommunications from a local visiting speaker - a trip down memory lane for us all. In March we visited Richmond Park for lunch and enjoyed a short walk in the Park in the early Spring cool sunshine after such a long hard and cold winter.

It has again not been one of our easiest years. We have certainly had some fun and laughter together, but also shared the pain of losing close friends, particularly Bert Jarman. In addition a number of members have not experienced the best of health during this past year.

Our strength lies in the friendship and support between members, and a willingness to help and be there for each other in times of need. This is particularly true with housebound members keeping in touch on the telephone grapevine!

John Farebrother.

Men's Group

A Men's Group was formed at the beginning of the year led by Neils Ribeiro Jnr. We have held a number of meetings throughout the year. Amongst our activities have been Bowling at Purley followed by a meal, 2 videos and discussions held in the Church Centre, Meal out in Mitcham, Watching a Rugby International and a talk/discussion on the Holocaust. Our attendances have ranged from 10 to 15 at each meeting. Our aim is to hold events bimonthly for the time being and looking to discuss issues that will challenge the men in the Church to think through their beliefs and how we can influence the society around us. For the time being Neils is taking paternal leave from the Group and it is being led by Dave, Femi and John in the interim.

Girls Nite Out

This is an opportunity for ladies of any age to come to a fun and relaxing evening. It also provides an occasion to bring friends who might, normally, find it difficult to come into a church building.

This year we have had 3 Nites Out:-

1. A Chinese Evening with the Centre decorated appropriately - including a dragon. Barbara Rose talked about her recent time in China and we sampled some known and some more unusual food!
2. Latin Nite organised by our Careforce workers from Mexico (Gabby) and Columbia (Paula). This included singing, dancing, food etc - and again, a suitably decorated centre.
3. Film Nite - we showed the film "Mamma Mia". This was an opportunity to sing along ABBA style and enjoy a glass of wine and popcorn. Eighty two people came and enjoyed the fun evening.

These "Nights Out" are proving to be good opportunities of outreach to the Community and fellowship.

Joan Botterill.

Cameo

CAMEO was set up in the Spring of 2009 - A number of active over 50's in the church family decided they would like to meet together on a casual basis three or four times a year. CAMEO means - Come And Meet Each Other. A questionnaire was sent out and the most popular ideas noted.

The event an outing in April was a luncheon at the Three Kings Chinese restaurant in Mitcham. Those who joined enjoyed good lunch and fellowship.

Other activities are planned and it is hoped that many more will be encouraged to participate.

Heather Wright.

Deanery Synod

Two meetings of the Synod are held each year. In October we welcomed Dr. Caroline Clarke, Chaplain of Trinity Hospice as our speaker. She spoke on “Dignity or Dignatas - what is a good death?” In view of this topical subject we made this an open meeting for members of the Deanery Churches. At our March meeting we were pleased to have Carol Akiwumi of the Bible Society as our speaker. At each meeting we also share news of the parishes and get to know each other better.

Our Area Dean, Rev. Kevin Parkes, moved to a new post during the year and the Rev. Wilma Roest was appointed in his place.

St. James representatives on the Synod are Liz Gibbons, Glynis Wilkinson, Joan Botterill and Alan Hollamby.

Joan Botterill.