
St Sebastian's Church
Nine Mile Ride
Wokingham Without

- Not Without Jesus -



Annual Report

and documents for the

Meeting of Parishioners and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

28th April 2009

WHO ARE WE?

Parish Values

Based on Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John 17, we believe that as a church God has called us to be:

Christ-centred

Not 'Jesus and...', but Jesus alone at the centre of our lives.
'...glory has come to me through them...' (v 10)

Righteous

God-directed living, thinking, and speaking.
'Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth (John 17:17)

One

Not 'I've won!', but 'We are one'.
'...that they may be one as we are one...' (John 17:22)

Sent

A serving church rather than a consumer church.
'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them...' (John 17:18)

Spirit-filled

All God's people using God's gifts to the full.
'...so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them...'
(John 17:13)

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

Mission Statement

We believe God is calling us as a church to be:

A beacon in the community

To lead people to Jesus Christ
To help them grow in Him

'A city set on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14)

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Vision Statement

Our vision for the future is of an 'Antioch' Church which is:

Innovative

- imparting biblical truth in new ways

Inspirational

- lighting fires in people's hearts for the Lord

Transformational

- a catalyst for God's change in individuals and society

Teaching

- a well for those who are thirsty for God's word

Serving

- a loving community ready to give and to receive

Sending

- sharing life with the wider church and community

(Based on Acts 11:19-20)

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APPENDIX 1 – 2008 ACCOUNTS FOR ST SEBASTIAN'S CHURCH

AGENDAS

St Sebastian's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Andrew Marsden, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Parish Centre, and the complex of St Sebastian's, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3AT.

We are committed to implementing the House of Bishops' Child Protection Policy Protecting All God's Children, and the diocesan procedures, which are based on the Children Act 1989, and the Home Office Guidance Safe from Harm. This policy is reviewed annually, as is our Health and Safety Policy.

ST SEBASTIAN'S CHURCH

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Tuesday 28th April 2009

AGENDA

1. Opening Worship
2. Appointment of clerk to take minutes
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of Meetings of 24th April 2008
5. Matters Arising
6. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 28th April 2009

AGENDA

1. Appointment of clerk to take minutes
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting of 24th April 2008
4. Matters arising
5. Report on Changes to the Electoral Roll
7. Election of 4 members to the Parochial Church Council
8. Election of Sidesmen
9. Presentation of the Financial Report and the Accounts of the Council for the year ended 31st December 2008
10. Presentation of the Annual Report, including:
 - Vicar's introduction
 - Report of the proceedings in Council
 - Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
 - Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
 - Team Reports
11. A.O.B.
12. Looking ahead – Rev Andrew Marsden

MINUTES

St. Sebastian's Church Meeting of Parishioners 8:00pm on Thursday 24th April 2008

PRESENT: Matthew Goddard + 59 Parishioners

APOLOGIES: Rev. Andrew Marsden Mary Unwin Mike Goldberg
 Janice Goldberg Stan Kirby Sylvia Dungate
 Pam Carter

1.00 OPENING WORSHIP

1.01 The meeting was opened with prayer and worship lead by Murray Foulds.

2.00 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO TAKE MINUTES

2.01 Amanda Lightfoot was appointed as clerk to take the minutes.

3.00 APOLOGIES

3.01 Apologies were received from those listed above. Rev. Andrew Marsden passed on his apologies and regrets that he could not attend the meeting due to illness. He had asked Matthew Goddard to chair the meeting in his absence in his position as Lay Chairman.

4.00 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF 25th APRIL 2007

4.01 The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2007, as included within the Annual Report, were accepted by all present and signed by MG.

5.00 MATTERS ARISING

5.01 There were no matters arising.

6.00 ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

6.01 There were two vacancies for Churchwarden - MG reiterated that a nomination form needed to be completed prior to the meeting – and two nominations had been received; namely Barbara Archer and Rory O'Connor. . MG proposed that both Barbara Archer and Rory O'Connor be appointment as Churchwardens. This was approved by all present.

MG voiced that the Churchwarden role is very interesting and not one which can be taken lightly. MG thanked Barbara Archer who had served as Churchwarden for the previous year on her own since July '07. MG thanked Derek Lowe for the time he served as Churchwarden during 2007 (April through to July).

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

Signed: Date:
(Chairman)

St. Sebastian's Annual Parochial Church Meeting Wednesday 24th April 2008

PRESENT: Matthew Goddard + 59 Parishioners

APOLOGIES: Rev. Andrew Marsden Mary Unwin Mike Goldberg
 Janice Goldberg Stan Kirby Sylvia Dungate
 Pam Carter

1.00 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO TAKE MINUTES

1.01 Amanda Lightfoot was appointed as clerk to take the minutes.

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 Apologies were received from those listed above. Rev. Andrew Marsden passed on his apologies and regrets that he could not attend the meeting due to illness. He had asked Matthew Goddard to chair the meeting in his absence in his position as Lay Chairman.

3.00 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 25th APRIL 2007

3.01 The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2007, as included within the Annual Report, were accepted by all present and signed by MG.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING

4.01 There were no matters arising.

5.00 REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL ROLL

5.01 As reported in the Annual Report, there are now 222 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. The usual Sunday attendance (at all services) was 194.

6.00 ELECTION OF 4 MEMBERS TO THE DEANERY SYNOD

6.01 MG thanked John Shea and David Bradshaw for acting as representatives of St. Sebastian's at Deanery Synod for the last 3 years. There were four vacancies for Deanery Synod and four nominations had been received; namely John Shea, Steve Bacon, Malcolm McNeil and Marion Lowe. All nominations were approved by all present.

7.00 ELECTION OF 4 MEMBERS TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

7.01 MG noted that although it is normal practice to have 15 members on the PCC for a parish with 200+ parishioners on the electoral roll, the PCC had previously taken the decision to keep this requirement to 12. Therefore there were four vacancies for PCC members (three for 3 years and one for 2 years). MG advised that meetings take place every month - alternating between business and prayer meetings and members are asked to form part of another sub-committee. The next PCC meeting was on Wed 21st May. Sue Cledwyn-Davies, Jennifer Wright and Paul Morrison had all come to the end of their times in office. There were four nominations received; namely, Chris Bull, Carolyn Dyche, Paul Morrison and Tim Yorke. All nominations were approved by all present.

8.00 ELECTION OF SIDESMEN

8.01 The list of names included within the Report was approved for the coming year with the addition of Carolyn Dyche. Barbara Archer queried whether Rory O'Connor could continue to serve as Sidesman in addition to his role as Church Warden. All sidespeople were approved by all present.

- 9.00 PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND THE ACCOUNTS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007
- 9.01 Paul Brown gave a high level overview of the financial situation for 2007 including income vs. expenditure, the position as at December 2007 and the results of Storehouse Sunday. Restricted funds were higher than in 2006 due to funds being specifically raised for St. Sebastian's Lodge with specific collections (i.e. charity collections at Christmas etc.) being dealt with separately. All other funds/collections are considered as unrestricted.
- 9.02 Unrestricted funds expenditure falls into 5 categories:- Mission Giving (the church's tithe as determined by the M&E team and approved by PCC), Parish Share (contributions to the diocese to fund and cover expenses etc. (but NOT St. Sebastian's Lodge)), Youth & Children (employment of the youth workers, costs for Trekkers), Administration (administrator salary, communication costs etc.) and Other Running Costs (day-to-day expenses, church site, power, water, insurance etc.). Contributing factors to the increase in expenditure are an increase in both our parish share and salaries.
- 9.03 Available funds have decreased from 2006. Main expenditure has been to St. Sebastian's Lodge, funds for which were counted as restricted. It is PCC policy is to have one month's expenditure in the bank at any one point, which would amount to between £12,000 - £14,000. Prior to Storehouse Sunday this position was likely to be eroded and the policy would be under threat. Thanks to Storehouse Sunday we have a better position for 2008. We were looking to increase giving by 14% to "stand still" and we currently have received 16% which is good news.
- 9.04 Paul reported that 2007 expenditure was in excess of income but that completion of St. Sebastian's Lodge had come in close to budget. Positive Storehouse Sunday results would ensure that 2008 costs are covered but there is no real scope for additional discretionary expenditure and funds still need to be tightly controlled.
- 9.05 The Financial Report was accepted by all present and Matthew payed tribute to and thanked Paul for all his hard work over the last 12 months.
- 10.00 PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT
- 10.01 On behalf of Rev. Andrew Marsden, MG voiced regret that some people had been omitted from the Annual Report; notably that Rev. Erik Fudge is missing from the list of PCC members and that Lay Readers and Preachers do not get a mention. MG thanked them for all that they do and contribute to the life of St. Sebastian's.
- 10.02 MG commented that at this point, Rev. Andrew Marsden would normally give a short commentary of the previous year. In his absence, MG picked up on a couple of items in The Vicar's Introduction as included within the Annual Report. The church is a thriving, vibrant church which is a real blessing but which can also be a challenge. We are all striving to follow God's lead and MG thanked everyone's participation in that.
- 10.03 Leadership: On behalf of Rev. Andrew Marsden, and the congregation, MG thanked the Team Leaders and their team members; without who's dedication things would not get done and MG thanked them for everything they've done and continue to do.
- 10.04 MG mentioned Paul and Helen Bradish who, in the 10 months they have been with us, have made such a positive impact.
- 10.05 Growth: Traditionally we have grown through conversion however over the last 2-3 years we have seen an influx of people from different churches which is wonderful but which presents a challenge in terms of the size of the building. Following on from "Mind the Gap" we have drawn together and we are in a great place to move forward in God's direction.
Worship: With the Growth we have seen the PCC have agreed that we should transition to two services. This may be a difficult time for some but we have set up a "Space To Grow Group" to look at all of the issues associated with this issue and the process of transition.
- 10.06 One minor comment from the Annual Report was that the headings of the "Report of Fabric, Goods, and Ornaments of the Church" and the "Prayer" report should read as "April 2008" and not "April 2007".

11.00 AOB

11.01 MG reported that he has decided to stand down his role as Teams' Co-ordinator due to outside pressures. He will still continue in other roles i.e. Lay Chair of the PCC etc. and will still be very active in the church. At this moment it was decided not to replace him.

11.02 Sue Kirby has decided to stand down from her role as paid Youth Evangelist as she feels that she is being led further into youth and street work, supporting other churches in Crowthorne. MG thanked SK for all the fantastic work she had done during her time as Youth Evangelist.

11.03 At this point, Rev. Andrew Marsden would normally look forward to the next year. MG advised that he will no doubt provide his perspective on those points during services as we go forward through the year.

12.00 LOOKING AHEAD

12.01 Not reported, due to Rev. Andrew Marsden's absence from the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed: Date:
(Chairman)

INTRODUCTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

Rev Andrew Marsden - April 2009

I finished my Introduction to last year's Annual Report by saying that I believed that God wanted to shake us up, but I did not know how appropriate this would be for me personally! On the day of last year's Annual Meetings I became ill with an infection which took 4 weeks to throw off and 4 more weeks of tests before I received the 'all clear'. Although this was an unsettling time for me and for the church, it was also a time when God spoke to me. I would like to record my thanks to all those who – in whatever way – held the fort during my absence. Your support and prayers were invaluable.

It has been a year of changes in other ways, too. Most notable, perhaps, was the fact that our Curate, Rev Paul Bradish, was called away from us rather earlier than we might have expected. Paul responded to a call to take part in an experimental project in Salisbury diocese, where he would finish his curacy, but be responsible on a day-to-day basis for five Wiltshire parishes. We said goodbye to Paul, Helen and the family on 5th October 2008, sending them out with our love, prayers, and a chicken house for their rural vicarage!

Paul's departure left a vacancy in the leadership of the Small Groups Team, and I am very grateful to Russell Shipton, one of our Licensed Lay Ministers, for taking this on with such enthusiasm. Apart from having visited all the groups in a short time, and having to deal with several leader vacancies, he has also organised the recent 'Love Life Live Lent' meetings, at which there has been such a sense of unity and common purpose.

In January this year the Team Leaders and PCC met for a Day Away to consider the structures in the church, and this is bearing fruit in new initiatives to support me and the existing Team Leaders, as well as to grow new leaders and develop people's gifts in the future. I would like to record my thanks to all the Team Leaders, PCC Members, and the Churchwardens, Rory O'Connor and Barbara Archer, for their unstinting work on behalf of the church. This year the PCC also appointed deputy churchwardens, Carolyn Dyche and Nigel Birch, and I am very grateful for all their help on Sunday mornings.

Sundays have had a different feel this year, since the 10 am service became the 9.30 am and 11.15 am services on Pentecost Sunday, 11th May 2008. Thank you to the Space to Grow Group and everyone else who has helped make this a smooth transition, especially to the music groups and leading and preaching team, who usually take part in both services, and whose ministry is greatly appreciated. More details are in my Worship Services Report, but in essence it is the 9.30 am service that is more popular. It still has 'space to grow' but only just! As a church it is now important that we seek God's will about the best way to develop the 11.15 am service, which represents a huge opportunity for growth. In the PCC we have begun this process, but would very much welcome the congregation's ideas and vision for the way forward.

In July 2008 Sue Kirby stepped down as our part-time Youth Evangelist in order to spend more time with the Hope 08 street work with young people that she has pioneered with the other Crowthorne churches. We were sad to see her leave this post, but grateful for all the innovation and inspiration she has brought to the youth work. In September 2008 Debbie Harris, formerly our part-time Youth Pastor, took up the post of full-time Youth Worker, and since then she has been successfully developing her new role. The PCC has for some time wanted to develop the children's work in the church, and was very pleased to be able to offer Sally Alexander the post of part-time Children's Worker from January 2009. Sally has a wealth of experience from her days as a Christian Schools Worker, and her energy and enthusiasm are already beginning to make a significant impact.

The last year has indeed seen many changes in the life of the church, some of them potentially unsettling. Yet such times of change are often the foundation for new work that God plans to do in and through us. As I look ahead, I am reminded of the Lord's words to Joshua as the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan:

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go' (Joshua 1:9)

REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS IN COUNCIL & REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PCC DURING 2008/2009

Amanda Lightfoot - April 2009

PCC Members

April 2008 - April 2009

Clergy: Rev. Andrew Marsden
Rev. Paul Bradish (until September 2008)
Rev. Erik Fudge

Church Wardens: Barbara Archer
Rory O'Connor

Deanery Synod: John Shea
Marion Lowe (until February 2009)
Malcolm McNeil
Steve Bacon

PCC members: Gary Alexander
Judith Boulton
Paul Brown
Chris Bull
Carolyn Dyche
Matthew Goddard
Mike Goldberg (until July 2008)
Andy Gorham
Paul Morrison
Tim Yorke (until November 2008)

The PCC appointed officers as follows:

Chairman	The Revd Andrew Marsden	
Vice Chairman	Matthew Goddard	
Secretary	Mike Goldberg (until July 2008) Rory O'Connor (from July 2008)	
Minute Secretary	Amanda Lightfoot	
Treasurer	Paul Brown	
Independent Examiner	Jacob George	
Electoral Roll Officer	Amanda Lightfoot	
Planned Giving Officer	Matthew Goddard	
Team Leaders	Central Resources	Position Vacant
	Children and Youth	Andy Clarke
	Mission & Evangelism	Alison Goddard

	Pastoral Life	Netty Shea
	Prayer	Jill Gardener
	Small Groups	Russell Shipton (from November 2008)
	Worship Services	Position Vacant
	Teams Co-ordinator	Position Vacant
CTC	Caroline Clarke and Jill Bright	
CTW	John Shea and Jennifer Wright	
Health & Safety Officer	Andy Gorham	

Protecting Children in the Diocese of Oxford

Parish Child Protection Representative	Barbara Archer
Children's Advocate	The Revd Andrew Marsden
Appointing Body Nominee	Andy Clarke
Approved Parish Representative	Amanda Lightfoot

PCC Committees

Standing Committee	Chairperson Committee	Revd Andrew Marsden Paul Brown, Matthew Goddard, Mike Goldberg (until July 2008), Rory O'Connor (from July 2008) and Barbara Archer
Environment, Fabric & Buildings	Chairperson Committee	Paul Morrison Barbara Archer, Tom O'Toole, Derek Lowe (until January 2009), John Shea, Sue Nelson and Andy Gorham
Finance	Chairperson Committee	Mike Goldberg (until July 2008), Chris Bull (from September 2008) Paul Brown, Judith Boulton and Gary Alexander

Six PCC meetings were held during the course of the year and the attendance was as follows:

Clergy	Andrew Marsden	5
	Erik Fudge	3
	Paul Bradish (until September 2008)	2
Church Wardens	Barbara Archer	6
	Rory O'Connor	5
Deanery Synod	Steve Bacon	6
	Marion Lowe (until February 2009)	3
	Malcolm McNeil	5
	John Shea	5

PCC members	Gary Alexander	4
	Judith Boulton	4
	Paul Brown	5
	Chris Bull	5
	Carolyn Dyche	5
	Matthew Goddard	6
	Mike Goldberg (until July 2008)	1
	Andy Gorham	5
	Paul Morrison	4
	Tim Yorke (until November 2008)	2

Secretary's Report

The PCC meetings take place bi-monthly with "Catch the Wave" serving as a prayer meeting in between. Meetings always start with a reading and time of prayer and this is a good time to focus our thinking.

Team leaders give regular presentations to the PCC to update us on how their specific area of responsibility is progressing and to discuss new ideas, seeking PCC guidance or approval where necessary. This is always informative and often very encouraging.

As mentioned in the Report on Proceedings in Council last year, the new service pattern of two mid-morning services at 9:30am and 11:15am was launched on Sunday 11th May and has been favourably received. Attendance at the 9:30am has been higher than at the 11:15am and the dynamics of each service differ slightly as a result of this. The most notable aspect is that the number of families with children and young people attending the 9:30am service was far greater than at 11:15am with, on occasion, no children attending the later groups. The decision was made in February 2009 to hold children's groups at the 9:30am service only with quiet activities being available at the back of Church at 11:15am should they be required. It has also become apparent that more people were attending the earlier "Sunday 4" service than the later and, since the "feel" of "Sunday 4" works better with a larger number of people it was also been decided to hold "Sunday 4" service at 9:30am only, beginning with our Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March 2009.

At the end of the Summer Term, Sue Kirby offered her resignation as our Youth Evangelist in order for her to pursue her involvement in street-work and outreach with the young people of the wider Crowthorne community. As a result of this Debbie Harris was offered, and subsequently accepted, the position of full-time Youth Worker and she commenced her "expanded" role at the beginning of September.

At the beginning of October we said a sad "goodbye" to Paul, Helen and the Bradish family. During the summer holidays Paul had been offered the position of Assistant Curate in the parish of Upper Kennett. Many people from St. Sebastian's attended his licensing service at the beginning of November 2008 and Paul was delighted to see so many familiar faces!

Following Paul Bradish's departure the decision was made to let St. Sebastian's Lodge until God's vision for the property became clearer. Thanks to a great deal of work on John Shea's behalf the property was prepared and subsequently let at the end of December. The tenancy agreement is initially for 6 months when our longer-term use of the property can be re-considered.

As well as appointing Debbie Harris as our full-time Youth Worker, it became apparent that our work and provision for the spiritual development of our children could be nurtured further too. After much discussion at PCC meetings it was decided that we should interview, and we subsequently offered, Sally Alexander the position of Children's Worker commencing in January 2009. Sally brings a wealth of experience with her, not to mention an unbounding enthusiasm and some amazing ideas as to how we can ensure that our children get to know God in a more real and exciting way.

Many of you will have noticed the new noticeboards which were erected at the end of November 2008. We have had a lot of positive feedback about them and hope that they will continue to provide us with additional scope to advertise all that St. Sebastian's Church has to offer.

So, another amazing year in the life of St. Sebastian's Church with lots of change but, hopefully, scope to grow. Let's continue to pray that God's direction for us will be clear and that He will provide for us in all the activities we undertake in His name.

REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS, ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Paul Morrison – April 2009

Parish Room:

The biggest issue facing the environment of the Church over the past year is the demolition of the Parish Room. When we reported last year demolition of the room was planned for the summer of 08. The School then stepped in and asked us to delay the task and synchronise with planned works at the school. They also agreed to incorporate the cost into their works if we undertook to replace fencing when demolition was completed.

The proposed demolition threw up one major challenge; how can we accommodate the storage of St Sebastian's band equipment? We are working to an acceptable solution keeping the band on Campus and providing space elsewhere on the Campus.

Demolition is proposed for either Easter or summer holidays. At the time of preparing this report we have no confirmation of which.

Palmer Lodge:

Following the departure of our Curate the Lodge was empty for a couple of months but is now rented to a family. This improves security for the building and helps to cover the costs of the Lodge and the Church.

Church Hall & Parish Centre:

A number of modifications have been made to the Church Hall environment to support the work of the Pre School (new door and window). These were funded by the council and more council funded enhancements are planned for the near future. The PCC has plans to replace the emergency doors at a cost of just under a £1000.

A number of minor maintenance tasks have been undertaken in the Church hall.

The reception rooms of the Parish Centre were painted over the summer by a team led by John Shea which included Sue Nelson and Marion Lowe. The carpets have been cleaned which has also brightened the building.

Ground Maintenance:

The grounds are still looking good with the trees & shrubs under control. During the year we had a number of days which focussed on the outside areas

More site maintenance days will be organised very soon to keep on top of tasks around the church grounds. The Kingdom Growers continue to keep the workload under control and brighten the environment by planting more flowers around the site.

I would like to thank all those who provide their time to help maintain the fabric of the Church. Those who clean regularly, cut grass, tidy the grounds, and provide their particular skills to jobs within the campus.

General Outlook:

Over the years we have tried to keep under control the expenditure on the site and have been very careful with the resources available to the Church. There are however some needs that are becoming more urgent. Therefore we may need to spend more on the Church fabric in the coming year.

WELCOME TEAM

John Shea – April 2009

The following have kindly agreed to continue welcoming people to Church. Our prayer is that each one of us will make people welcome and put them at ease. Alison Goddard aims to visit all newcomers to the Church.

8.00am:

Mrs Trish Allen
Mrs Julia Brooking
Mrs Maureen Atkins
Mr & Mrs Terry Dungate
Mr & Mrs Mark Hall

9.30am & 11.15am:

Mr Steve Bacon
Mrs Jill Bright
Mr & Mrs Paul Brown
Mr Tim Bull
Mr & Mrs Jonathon Cledwyn - Davies
Mr & Mrs Arnold Freeman
Miss Christina Hall
Miss Gemma Holdsworth
Mrs Stella King
Mr Stephen Lee
Mrs Angela Platt
Mr & Mrs Tom O'Toole
Miss Roxanna Parry
Miss Christina Parry
Mr David Russell
Mrs Gill Riley
Mr & Mrs Arthur Rossell
Mr & Mrs John Shea
Mrs Pat Steer
Mrs Margaret Welbourne
Mr & Mrs Allan Wise
Mrs Pauline Whittle
Mr & Mrs Don Wright

CHURCH ATTENDANCE & ELECTORAL ROLL

Amanda Lightfoot: Electoral Roll Officer – April 2009

There are 237 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

9 names were removed and 24 were added during the year.

The usual Sunday attendance (at all services), counted during October 2008, was 207.

SONNING DEANERY SYNOD 2008/2009

John Shea – April 2009

All clergy attached to St Sebastians are eligible to attend Deanery Synod together with four lay members. This year St Sebastian's has been represented by Andrew Marsden, with Steve Bacon, Marion Lowe (until February 2009), Malcolm McNeil and John Shea, as the lay representatives. Rev David Hodgson (All Saints Wokingham) has been appointed an honorary Canon of Christchurch Cathedral and remains the Area Dean with Reg Morton as the Deanery Treasurer. Mrs Judith Scott has stood down as Lay Chairman and a replacement is being sought.

Deanery Synod has met four times during the year, the first of which was a Communion service followed by light refreshments.

The agenda at meetings has covered a range of topics including:

- A review of the training programme in the Deanery, developed by Phillip Dixon during his two year appointment. There has been on-going discussion of his report to determine whether parishes may be able to share their training plans with other parishes and whether this would require someone to be employed as the training co-ordinator.
- Monitoring the work of the Hurst and Winnersh Review Group seeking to implement the Deanery Plan on ministry and mission, which in 2005 had identified that Bearwood St Catherine, Woosehill LEP, Winnersh St Mary, and Hurst St Nicholas (all within two benefices) as being geographically split.
- Presentations on the healing ministry in some churches in the deanery.
- A review of the mechanics for calculating the parish share in the deanery for 2009 and the paper setting out the Synod Share Reserve policy adopted in 2003 and reviewed in September 2005. The reserve funds result from the rebate from the Diocese if all the parish shares in the Deanery are paid on time. Currently the Share reserve stands at £117K and are available for the Deanery to support mission projects.
- A presentation by Yvette Edwards on her work in Wokingham secondary schools for the Wokingham Area School Christian Worker Trust (WASCWT). This was well received and subsequently Synod gave a grant to the Trust, from the Share Reserve, which has enabled the Trust to fund an assistant for Yvette for one year.
- Further presentations on fresh expressions of church were made. A grant from the Share Reserve was made to the Stage-Fright After-School Club project to fund a full-time internship post for one year from September 2009 – August 2010, a partnership between the Borough Council, Churches and 5 local primary schools.
- Reverend Canon Tim Dakin, a member of General Synod and General Secretary of the Church Mission Society, gave a talk entitled "Anglican Futures - Summer/Autumn 2008", summarising the development of the Anglican Communion and the four assemblies he had attended that year - the Global Anglican Futures Conference, the General Synod in York, the Lambeth Conference, and the National Evangelical Anglican Consultation. Those present were given a copy of the Jerusalem Declaration.
- A presentation on the Bishop of Oxford's 'Living Faith Evangelism Initiative'.

2008 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Paul Brown – April 2009

For the year ending 31 December 2008

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008 are presented on pages 6 to 12 and are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Income

Total incoming resources were £171,542 (2007 - £165,011) during the year and are detailed further in note 2 of the financial statements.

Voluntary income totalled £162,165 (2007 - £154,584), of which £158,091 (2007 - £127,163) was provided for unrestricted purposes. The latter increased by 24% compared to the previous year. This increase is partly attributable to the positive response to the 'Storehouse Sunday' gift-day that focused on increasing regular giving amongst the Church congregation to cover on-going costs.

Other income towards the unrestricted funds continues to be mainly provided by income from the Church hall hire.

Restricted funds received during the year, of £2,920 (2007 - £25,550), have reduced significantly since last year where the previous year included income received from the gift day to raise funds towards the completion of the works at St Sebastian's Lodge (£20,000). The restricted funds received during year have been used, or set aside, for the specific purpose they have been donated towards. Note 8 sets out further details of the movements in restricted funds.

Expenditure

Total expenditure in the year was £158,124 (2007 - £202,240) and is detailed further in note 3 of the financial statements.

After setting aside the expenditure of the specific collections and restricted funds, the expenditure of the Church's unrestricted funds was £155,888 (2007 - £144,783). This is an increase in expenditure of 8% compared to the previous year. The increase is attributable to a number of factors: those associated with cost increases not under our direct control such as the annual increase in the diocesan parish share and increases in energy and other utility costs; and those under our control, such as mission giving, salary increases for our paid employees and other site running costs.

The largest item of expenditure continues to be the contribution to the diocesan parish share of £66,984 (2007 - £65,033) mentioned above. This has increased by 3% compared to the previous year (2007 - 5%). The contribution made by St Sebastian's is set by the Deanery according to a formula, rather than being at the PCC's own discretion. The parish share provides funds for diocesan stipends, repairs, maintenance and council taxes on parsonages, team vicarages and other properties housing clergy in the diocese, together with other direct costs such as clergy training and grants. This contribution towards diocesan expenditure "is aimed at creating a caring, sustainable and growing Christian presence in every part of the Diocese."

The Church continues to contribute 10% of the income provided for unrestricted purposes to charities and societies. This year the Church's mission and charitable giving was £16,498 (2007 - £14,006). During the year the team responsible for proposing the recipients of funds have provided informative reports on the missions and charities that benefit from this giving.

Net position

The net result for the year, excluding specific collections and restricted funds, was an excess of receipts over payments of £11,518 which is a significant improvement on the position reported last year where payments exceeded receipts of £7,257. This reflects the impact of the items discussed above and reported in the notes to the financial statements.

Funds

At the end of the year, total cash at bank and in hand totalled £29,858 (2007 - £12,657) reflecting the improvement the net position during 2008.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy, where practicable, to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to approximately one month's unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. At 31 December 2008 unrestricted funds were in excess of the level required to ensure compliance to this policy, mainly as a result of the timing of expenditure.

Change to charity legislation

The Charities Act 2006 changes the way charities previously excepted from registration are regulated. From 31 January 2009, excepted charities with an annual income of more than £100,000 must apply for registration. Registration will mean that details, including the charity's name, its purpose, its annual income, the type of governing document, and name and address of a contact, will be stored on a computerised database along with another 190,000+ registered charities. On registering we will be provided a registration number. The implications of the requirement to register include the need to complete and submit an Annual Return and a copy of the trustees' annual report and accounts within 10 months of the end of the financial year. This matter is being dealt with in conjunction with the Diocese and the registration process will run to 30 June 2009 for the Church of England.

Looking forward

The Church ended the year in a much healthier position than it entered it, which puts the Church in a more sound financial position for the forthcoming year. The position will be continually reviewed as we progress through the year and expenditure will continue to be managed carefully. In many cases, events and activities of the Church are self-funding, as a result of the generosity of the participants and/or careful planning. These factors support the Church to be in a position to cover unforeseen expenditure as it arises.

Two events that have arisen since the end of 2008, which impact the Church's financial position, are as follows:

- recruitment of a Children's worker, Sally Alexander, on a part time basis;
- letting of St Sebastian Lodge following the departure of Rev. Paul Bradish and his family.

The former will be funded from regular giving. The latter provides both financial and non-financial benefits to the Church while the premises are not being utilised directly by the Church.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Andy Clarke – April 2009

Children's Work:

In September 08 Trekkers was re- launched as 'Space Trekkers' with the fresh idea of the children lifting off on a journey to learn and experience more of God. The groups have been re-named as Stars, (pre-school), Comets, (Reception - Year 3) and Supernovas, (Year 4 - 6).

An altogether time has been reintroduced at the beginning of Space Trekkers, with various worship leaders coming in to lead singing or with the use of a CD. Everyone has worked hard and the children are beginning to enjoy singing and worshipping God. The children have sung a song in church for the adults on both the Christingle and the Mother's day services.

"The Space Place" was also launched in September, a service especially for children, with an altogether time of worship and games (including leaders getting custard pies!) and a story on the theme for the month, followed by a rotation of activities in age groups including: games, craft and DVD and refreshments. They then have a final altogether time at the end. This has been very popular with the children and takes place every second Sunday during "Service of the Word" in the main church.

In January 2009 Sally was appointed as part-time Children's Worker for the church, which is a great blessing for the development of our Children's work. One of the main aims for this year is to consolidate the children's work and encourage the children to attend regularly. Currently we have over sixty children on the register. It is very pleasing to report that attendance has started to pick up. One of our key aims is to help the children to experience Jesus and to grow in their faith, and already they have come on so far in prayer and worship. We would also like to bring in new children and families through special events and in October 08 we had an excellent party as an alternative to Halloween, where over sixty children came from the school and church.

Another part of Sally's role is to visit local primary schools and take assemblies. This is really exciting as relationships are being built up with teachers and children. In St Sebastian's School Sally was involved in planning and helping to run the JC week, which looks at why Jesus died for us, culminating in an Easter service presenting the work the children have done to the parents.

Youth Work:

In 2008 Debbie moved into a full time Youth Worker role with responsibility for all our youth groups and to outreach into the local schools and community.

The Youth Groups meet weekly to develop spiritually, explore the Bible, engage in debates and discussions and have fun together.

The young people who attend 'Blog' and 'Cell' on Fridays have been developing friendships, seeking to draw closer to God as well as supporting good causes and sharing the Christian message. They have done this through carol singing at Christmas, outreach suppers and fundraising for Children in Need, and the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Both groups continue to have a committed core membership which also invites friends to share our times together. This friendship evangelism is an exciting and encouraging aspect to our meetings. Our committed team of leaders on Fridays is welcoming, friendly and encouraging, enabling the young people to share openly their thoughts on a variety of issues and to participate in worship, prayer and ministry.

On Sundays young people are increasingly taking an active role in many areas of church life, including prayer ministry, music, sound and vision, as Space Trekkers helpers, and welcoming. It is really positive to see how much they value being part of St Sebastian's, as well as how much they are appreciated by the Church family. The two Lasers groups that meet on Sunday mornings at 9.30am are led by a dedicated

team which has a passion for young people and for supporting them as they explore their faith and go deeper into the Bible. Big Breakfast continues to be an amazing mix of mayhem and worship whilst providing a great opportunity to present a thought provoking message.

The small groups that meet for discussion, study or worship during the week are engaging and challenging as they tease out what being a Christian means for them in today's society and to relate the Bible to their everyday lives.

Since September, Debbie has undertaken regular outreach work in St Sebastian's School and Hatch Ride School to years 5 & 6. Not only has this been great fun but it has also offered opportunities to get involved in RE and philosophy with the young people and their teachers.

The visits to Soul Survivor last summer and Mityana in February were very successful and have made a lasting impact on those young people (and adults!) who were involved. Working on the projects in Uganda was hard work and rewarding yet humbling. The next Soul Survivor trip is currently being planned and we look forward to 'meeting with God, learning from His word, being changed by Him and starting to change the world' as the Soul Survivor website says!

When the church introduced two services we offered Children and Youth Work at both services. Numbers of children and youth attending the 11.15 service were very small. Consequently we introduced an all age children's group called 'The Universe'. Attendances continued to be very small, often with no children attending. Small numbers affected the quality of what we could provide, and we were also concerned about the morale of leaders who had spent time in preparation, but found that no children turned up. As a result the decision was made to stop Children & Youth Work at the 11:15 service from March 2009. Activity packs are provided at the back of church for children to use when they do occasionally come to the 11.15 service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Debbie Harris and Sally Alexander for their passion, commitment, gifts and love for our young people. I would also to thank our very supportive leaders who work incredibly hard to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to hear the gospel and are nurtured and disciplined as they grow in faith.

Please pray for all our children and young people, for Debbie, Sally and all our leaders.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Children & Youth Work at Sebastian's please contact either Debbie Harris or Sally Alexander at the parish office or myself via email, andyclarke@btconnect.com or telephone on 07881 916446.

MISSION & EVANGELISM

Alison Goddard – April 2009

'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them...' (John 17:18)

Mission and Evangelism at St Sebastian's Church is a continually evolving process and aims to fulfil our Mission Statement to be a beacon in the community for Jesus. I have a wonderful team with hard working and innovative members who I couldn't manage without and I would like to thank them all.

Details of some of the team's work are outlined below:

MISSION:

Living Faith Day:

The diocese hosted an extremely exciting and innovative day looking at evangelism within our churches in June 2008. They have continued their support with the publication of "The E Word" - a twice monthly

newsletter containing information about events, local and regional information about living, deepening and sharing of the Christian faith.

A small planning group has met to discuss the future evangelism for our church. However for the project to move forward the group needs additional members.

Mission Giving:

The Mission Giving Committee is now chaired by Malcolm McNeil and continues to meet regularly. "Mission Talk" was produced again in the autumn, this time focusing on Clive and Sylvia Dudbridge with their work for the Oasis Trust and Lizzy Bull (YWAM) and Elspeth McNeil (Latin Link).

Clive, Lizzy and Elspeth have all given amazing accounts of their experiences of how God is working in other parts of the world. Local testimonies have been given by Sue Kirby (JAC) and Russell Shipton (WASWCT) and others. The church continues to give 10% of its income away and in 2008 donated almost £20,000 to charities.

EVANGELISM:

Alpha:

Over the last year there have been three Alpha Courses; two in the evening and one in the daytime. A total of 23 people have attended the course and a Small Group has formed as a result. There is already interest in another Course in the Summer Term. We continue to have local regional support and five people are planning to attend an Alpha Conference in May. I would like to thank Janice Goldberg (Alpha Coordinator) the caterers, Alpha Leaders, hosts and all who pray for Alpha, without whom this venture would not happen.

Welcoming:

John Shea continues as Sidesmen Coordinator. I would like to thank him for his constant support and encouragement with the Welcome Team and with the newcomers, with whom he seems to have an instant rapport.

Over the last year I have welcomed 5 families, 1 couple and 2 individuals to the church. However there are many more new faces at St Sebastian's and I need to develop a team where I have like minded Welcomers available to visit families, couples or individuals allowing newcomers to feel more comfortable and informed about the church.

Social Events:

An open-air concert at Wellington College with St Sebastian's Band was held in July 2008 on one of the few pleasant evenings of the summer. It was well attended having been advertised locally and there are plans to repeat the event this summer. I would like to thank Carolyn Dyche and her team for all their hard work. I would love to re-establish a Social Committee to allow more Social events to happen throughout the year. Please contact me if you are interested.

Mission and Evangelism is a busy team with lots happening. If you are interesting in joining or would like more information please contact Alison Goddard on 0118 9792359 or alison@goddardfamily.org.uk.

PASTORAL LIFE

Netty Shea – April 2009

The team used to be split into two areas, One-to-One Care and Group Care each with a manager. The report still uses these sub groups, although there are no managers. I am praying for an assistant team leader.

One-to-One Care

Practical Help. A group of volunteers offers lifts, meals and DIY where these needs cannot be met by friends and home group members.

Visiting. As with practical help much visiting is undertaken by friends and neighbours but some co-ordination is useful. I liaise closely with Andrew and the Home Communion team and with Jill Gardener and the prayer team over visits. We are informally linked with the Link visiting scheme, which provides visits for housebound people referred by health professionals. There is a need for a coordinator for Visiting and Practical help.

Listening. Coordinated by Helen Hucklesby, three more modules 'Listening to Conflict' 'Listening to Depression' and Listening to the Elderly' have taken place in Sept and Nov 2008 and in Feb 2009 attended by 7 to 14 people. Another module 'Listening to relationships/couples' is planned for June 2009. The PCC kindly funds up to half the cost of these modules, but most participants pay the full fee.

Shelter. The room which was called the shelter is now the Youth and Children Workers Office so listening by appointment now goes on by telephone or in the upstairs counselling room.

Group Care

Jubilee Club. This has a membership of 23, including 3 gentlemen who make themselves very useful on practical tasks. The club enjoys a varied programme, Angela Platt welcomes visits to the Parish Centre on any Tuesday afternoon for a cup of tea and a chat with members. Offers of help with transport are also appreciated.

Cancer Support. Anne Bone continues to offer advice support, prayer, visits and lifts as well as running its regular monthly meeting. Several new people have benefited from the support of this group recently.

Surviving the Break Up. Coordinated by Helen Thompson, two courses have been run this year in June and November 2008, and another is planned for June 2009. Numbers are usually small but the course continues to meet the needs of those who attend. There is a need for more facilitators – particularly men.

Friends. A social group for those who are on their own. The group is self-run and thriving. The link with Surviving the Break up has become stronger this year with quite a few joining after the course. Contacts for this group are Mary Unwin or Ro King

Parenting. No Courses have been run or are planned, because other good parenting courses are offered locally. However Heather Fudge is available to offer parenting advice as needed.

Marriage Course. Six Couples took part in a course facilitated by Claire and Paul Morrison from January to March 2009. Again this was much appreciated. The charge of £40 per couple and £10 for the banquet covered costs because several cooks did not claim for ingredients.

Services

Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. For bereaved people, at 3pm on Sunday May 17th. Invitations to the service of have been sent and posters placed in several local venues.

Sunday Classic Songs of Praise. This is held in alternate months at 3 pm on a Sunday afternoon, and obviously fulfils a need. The service includes well-loved songs and hymns, with testimonies about the requested hymns, followed by afternoon tea. Approx 40 people attend, not including the large team of helpers who make it happen.

Please join me in giving thanks to the Lord for this wonderful team of coordinators and volunteers, and pray with me that gaps will be filled and an assistant team leader identified.

New Initiatives

Debbie Harris is hoping to re vitalise a 20's – 30's group and two Men's groups are under consideration. Helen Hucklesby's gardening project to support and involve people with learning difficulties is now being developed in conjunction with the 'Link visiting scheme' mentioned above.

PRAYER

Jill Gardener – April 2009

“Blow the Trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people” Joel 2:15

The above verse may sound like a strange one with which to head a prayer report but I hope to explain later in the report why I feel it is a relevant passage for us at this time

Prayer circle, Prayer chain, Prayer Triplets

The various components of the Prayer Team continue to offer prayer support very effectively. The Prayer Circle and Prayer Chain provide cover for many urgent prayer needs. Both can be accessed by contacting Amanda in the Parish Office, Jill Gardener on 01344 771526 or Netty Shea on 01189 782324. During the course of the year we have lost a few members of these groups as they have moved away and I would like to increase our numbers here.

A number of people meet regularly to pray in Prayer Triplets and find these a very effective and supportive way to pray together. If you would like to become part of Prayer Triplet or a member of the Prayer chain or Prayer circle please do contact me.

Prayer Ministry Team

It has been lovely to see a marked increase through the year in the number of people coming for prayer ministry during services. It has kept the team on their toes and stretched them at times! We now have two youth members on the team and hope to run both adult and youth prayer ministry training courses during the coming year, if you would like to take part in one of these please let me know. Prayer ministry also takes place at times other than services by request and many have been significantly touched by the Lord during these times.

Intercessions in services

We have a small but committed team of people who regularly lead prayers at our Sunday services. At the moment we are particularly in need of people to lead prayers at the 11.15 service. If this is the service you normally attend and you would be happy to lead intercessions please do let me know!

“Catch the Wave”

“Catch the Wave” is an opportunity to come together in an atmosphere of worship to pray for the church and to listen to the Lord together. We now meet in what used to be the PCC prayer slot, i.e. the third Wednesday of every other month. All are very welcome, not just PCC members. Over the past year we have found these gatherings to be a time of increasing revelation and understanding from the Lord as we wait on Him together.

A New Initiative-Prayer on the Streets

The following does not relate solely to St Seb's but is significant and is something for which I would greatly value your prayers.

For the past few months a group of us drawn from a number of different churches in Crowthorne have been meeting together with a view to taking Healing prayer onto the streets of Crowthorne on a Saturday morning. This is still in embryo stage at the moment but the Lord has impressed both on me and on others involved that we must go to where the people are rather than wait for them to come in to us. Please speak to me for more information and please do pray for this new opportunity to reach out to people in Crowthorne.

Reflections

As I reflect on prayer in St Seb's over the past year I am struck by two things-one very encouraging and one more challenging. The first is the significant increase recently in the sense of the Presence and Power of God in times of prayer ministry. I believe this is something we need to continue both to seek and expect. When we pray for people we are seeking to bring them into an encounter with the Lord Jesus who alone has the power to save, heal and release! I believe we should be increasingly asking the Lord for these “power encounters” for people as we pray.

Secondly I return to the challenging verse I quoted at the top of this report because I believe praying together is the key to breakthrough in all areas of our church life. I know we are prayerful individually but I feel we have yet to see a release in heartfelt, passionate, corporate prayer. I believe now is the time to "call a solemn assembly" and to "gather the people" in prayer. I would love "Catch the Wave" to become so crowded that we have to move from the Parish Centre into the church and hold it far more frequently! I am praying for a release of a Spirit of Prayer on us during the coming months. I'll end with the words of John Bunyan, as quoted by Ian Seymour in a recent sermon:

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed but you can't do more than pray until you've prayed".

SMALL GROUPS

Russell Shipton – April 2009

St Seb's currently runs 11 home groups of typically up to a dozen people: Most meet weekly, but 3 meet fortnightly. They provide a setting where, for many, we most comfortably ask questions about the Bible or our faith, discuss, and work it through into our daily lives.

Group meetings usually last for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. This will be a sociable mix of tea/coffee/biscuits/chat, and some slightly more structured time which will mostly include some bible study and discussion on how to relate it to daily life, along with some praise and prayer. In total over 100 people are involved in the groups. Many groups sing a few hymns/songs as a part of their praise. They meet:

- one on a Tuesday morning,
- six on a Tuesday evening,
- two on a Wednesday evening, and
- two on a Thursday evening.
- four in the Crowthorne/St Seb's area,
- four in Wokingham,
- two in Finchampstead, and
- one in Sandhurst
- none currently in Bracknell

In the last 4 months we have lost 2 leaders who have moved away. One of these groups has moved into shared leadership and new arrangements should be made for the other before groups recommence after Easter.

During Lent, most of the groups met together in Church and looked at themes brought up by the Lent booklet, "Love Life: Live Lent", which encouraged us all to take small actions to change our bit of the world. I am very grateful to all those who contributed to the success of those meetings through speaking, leading worship, preparing the refreshments and setting out the church.

If you would like to get involved with a group, have a word with Russell Shipton who will suggest a group near you that you would fit into easily.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Andrew Marsden – April 2009

Someone recently said to me, 'I never fail to meet with God when I come to St Sebastian's. I don't quite know what it is about the services, but I always experience His presence.' What an exciting statement! I believe that the reason for this is that as a church we approach worship with the expectation that we will encounter God. In the music, the preaching, the prayers, and every other aspect of Sunday worship, we believe that God is with us, and we celebrate his presence. This sounds simple, but it is only possible because of much hard work and prayer on the part of all those who contribute to the services.

New Services. Perhaps the most significant development this year has been that, starting from Pentecost Sunday (11th May 2008), our 10 am service has been replaced by two services at 9.30 and 11.15 am. Thanks to the careful planning of the Space to Grow Group, the transition has been a fairly smooth one. I am particularly grateful to all those who have been willing to serve at both services on a Sunday morning. Numbers have not divided equally, and the 9.30 service is now by far the larger. Most families go to the 9.30 service, so we stopped children's and youth work at the 11.15 service from March 2009, since small numbers affected both the quality of teaching and the morale of the volunteers. In addition we have recently decided only to hold Sunday 4 at the 9.30 service. It is clear that the 11.15 service is evolving, and its final form is not yet clear. We hope to replace Sunday 4 at 11.15 with an evangelistic service aimed at adults, and there is no doubt that the space at the 11.15 service gives us a great mission opportunity.

Music in Worship. We have 4 worship groups, led by Murray Foulds, Eve Bull, Jane Clark, and Andy Harris. Until recently Tim Yorke also led a group, but he has now moved to Chicago. The groups and their leaders are both committed and very gifted musically. What they do is not just confined to Sunday mornings, but involves rehearsal during the week, and sometimes liaising with the sound team at the set-up on a Saturday. Our vision for the development of music in worship has not been forgotten and we will be offering further training to the members of the worship groups. It is also worth mentioning the Christmas Choir, whose members were very appreciative of Jane Clark's leadership, and which made a significant contribution to the worship at our Carol Service.

Sound and Vision. Here again we have a very committed team, led by Pete Beddall, whose members work very hard setting up on Saturday night, and coming in early to do sound checks with the musicians before the services. Pete has introduced new software for the projection of worship songs, and has trained his team in its use. Extra people have also been trained to do the sound at 11.15, where not so much expertise is needed. Our new sound desk is due to be delivered soon, and should ease the team's workload. This year we have had to replace the projector in church, and the new one gives a much better quality image.

Sunday 4. When we reviewed this service recently, it was still felt to be a valuable 'gateway' into church life for parents with primary school age children (who often prefer their children to be with them at first, rather than going into Space Trekkers). At its best it speaks to all ages, and older people have often commented on how much they get out of it. Currently the main challenge is that the two planning teams (led by Barrie and Barbara Archer and Janet Rogers) are small, and need an injection of new people with a vision for evangelism in the context of all age worship.

Leading and Preaching. Following my report to a recent PCC meeting, one member commented on the high quality of preaching in the church. This is thanks largely to the hard work of the preaching team, which besides me includes Erik Fudge, Ann Potts, Russell Shipton, Sue Kirby, Nick Parry (in training as a licensed preacher) and Mark Boobbyer. Jill Bright also preaches occasionally at the Wednesday Communion.

The above areas comprise the Worship Services Team, but thanks should also go to those from other teams (e.g. in catering, intercessions, prayer ministry, Space Trekkers, Lasers, welcome, flowers, cleaning) who contribute to our services, including the group from Pastoral Life who run Sunday Classic Songs of Praise. It is not surprising that this area affects all our teams, since worship is at the heart of our identity in Christ:

'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:9)

APPENDIX 1

2007 ACCOUNTS FOR ST SEBASTIAN'S CHURCH

For the Year Ended 31 December 2008

These accounts and associated notes and statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 43 of the Charities Act, 1993, and in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 – 2001.

Approved by the Treasurer, Independent Examiner and the PCC.

To be approved by the APCM during the meeting on 28 April 2009

St Sebastian's Church is situated in Nine Mile Ride, in the district of Wokingham Without. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.

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

Address for correspondence

Parish Office
Nine Mile Ride
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 3AT

Bank

Barclays Bank plc
PO Box 1
High Street
Crowthorne
Berkshire
RG45 7AR

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST SEBASTIAN, WOKINGHAM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Specific Collections	Restricted Funds	Total 2008	Total 2007
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2(a)	158,091	1,155	2,920	162,165	154,584
Church activities	2(b)	8,439	-	-	8,439	8,970
Income from investments	2(c)	876	-	61	937	1,457
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		167,406	1,155	2,981	171,542	165,011
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church activities						
Diocesan parish share	3(a)	(69,714)	-	-	(69,714)	(67,690)
Missionary and charitable giving	3(b)	(16,498)	(1,155)	-	(17,652)	(15,877)
Other church activities	3(c)	(69,676)	-	(1,082)	(70,758)	(118,672)
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		(155,888)	(1,155)	(1,082)	(158,124)	(202,240)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		11,518	-	1,899	13,417	(37,229)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		11,518	-	1,899	13,417	(37,229)
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		(17,482)	-	3,805	(13,678)	23,552
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		(5,964)	-	5,703	(261)	(13,677)

The notes on pages 1.4 to 1.8 form part of these accounts.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST SEBASTIAN, WOKINGHAM
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Note	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible	5(a)	296,495	296,495
Investments	5(b)	<u>2,520</u>	<u>2,520</u>
		<u>299,015</u>	<u>299,015</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	17,970	16,114
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>29,858</u>	<u>12,657</u>
		<u>47,828</u>	<u>28,772</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	(16,107)	(10,467)
		<u>31,721</u>	<u>18,304</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>31,721</u>	<u>18,304</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>330,736</u>	<u>317,319</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>330,736</u>	<u>317,319</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Capital reserves		330,997	330,997
Restricted	8	5,703	3,805
Unrestricted		<u>(5,964)</u>	<u>(17,482)</u>
		<u>330,736</u>	<u>317,319</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20 April 2009 and signed on its behalf by

The Revd Andrew Marsden (Vicar, PCC Chairman)

Paul C Brown ACA (PCC Treasurer)

The notes on pages 1.4 to 1.8 form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST SEBASTIAN, WOKINGHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for certain of the freehold properties which are at valuations as described in the notes.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Capital reserves are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the capital reserves may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the capital reserve was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purchases.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resources to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that reward creates a binding or constructive obligation of the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficial property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). No value is placed on these assets in the financial statements. All expenditure incurred on these assets is written off when incurred.

Freehold properties are either stated at cost when built by the Parish or stated at valuation when donated to the PCC.

Investments are stated at cost.

2. Incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Specific Collections	Restricted Funds <small>Note 8</small>	Total 2008	Total 2007
	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving					
Gift aid donations and covenants	113,752	-	-	113,752	92,920
Other	6,005	-	-	6,005	4,839
Income tax recoverable	30,356	-	-	30,356	22,032
Collections at all services	6,742	1,155	-	7,897	7,827
Other voluntary receipts					
Donations	1,236	-	2,497	3,733	21,513
Income tax recoverable	-	-	423	423	5,454
	158,091	1,155	2,920	162,165	154,584
2(b) Church activities					
Church hall hire	6,009	-	-	6,009	5,984
Fees	2,430	-	-	2,430	2,986
	8,439	-	-	8,439	8,970
2(c) Income from investments					
Bank interest	74	-	-	74	750
Dividends and interest on investments	802	-	61	863	707
	876	-	61	937	1,457

3. Resources expended

	Unrestricted Funds	Specific Collections	Restricted Funds <small>Note 8</small>	Total 2008	Total 2007
	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Diocesan parish share and fees					
Diocesan parish share	66,984	-	-	66,984	65,033
Other diocesan fees	2,730	-	-	2,730	2,657
	69,714	-	-	69,714	67,690
3(b) Missionary and charitable giving					
Overseas	9,899	707	-	11,053	10,275
Home	6,599	448	-	6,599	5,602
	16,498	1,155	-	17,652	15,877
3(c) Church activities					
Activities relating to the work of the church					
Church premises costs	7,730	-	-	7,730	6,448
Upkeep of church services	1,767	-	-	1,767	1,197
Educational and pastoral costs	1,602	-	-	1,602	1,883
Parish Centre running costs	3,410	-	-	3,410	2,855
Church Hall running costs	7,118	-	-	7,118	7,360
Parish Room running costs	372	-	-	372	553
St Sebastian's Lodge expenses	4,171	-	-	4,171	53,435
	26,170	-	-	26,170	73,730
Activities relating to youth and children					
Youth workers' costs and related expenses	17,369	-	-	17,369	16,531
Youth activities	1,456	-	-	1,456	1,261
	18,825	-	-	18,825	17,792
Church management and administration					
Administrator's costs and related expenses	13,732	-	-	13,732	12,412
Communications and publicity	8,178	-	-	8,178	6,077
Other administration expenses	2,771	-	1,082	3,853	8,660
	24,681	-	1,082	25,763	27,150
	69,676	-	1,082	70,758	118,672

4. Staff costs

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	£	£
Salaries	24,225	24,298
Social security costs	<u>6,128</u>	<u>4,576</u>
	<u>30,353</u>	<u>28,873</u>

At the start of the year there were 3 part-time employees comprising a Church Administrator, a Youth Evangelist and a Youth Pastor. During the year, the part-time Youth Evangelist stood down and the youth role was amalgamated into a single full-time role. In note 3, the staff costs for the Church Administrator are included in Church management and administration costs and the Youth workers' costs are included in Activities relating to youth and children.

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member or persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than for the re-imbursement of costs incurred in respect of Church activities.

5. Fixed assets

5(a) Tangible fixed assets – freehold land and buildings

	£
Actual/deemed cost	
At 1 January 2008 and at 31 December 2008	<u>296,495</u>
Accumulated depreciation	
At 1 January 2008 and at 31 December 2008	<u>-</u>
Net book value	
At 1 January 2008 and at 31 December 2008	<u>296,495</u>

Freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall and the parish centre, both of which were built by the PCC and are stated at cost of £201,495, and St Sebastian's Lodge and the parish room, which are stated at a combined valuation made in the year of donation to the PCC of £95,000. It is not considered that the current value of the freehold properties is lower than their stated cost and accordingly no depreciation has been provided. The PCC do not see any benefit in obtaining a current valuation of these properties.

5(b) Investments

	£
CBF Investment fund - 1,899 shares	1,850
3.5% HM Treasury war stock	<u>670</u>
	<u>2,520</u>

6. Debtors

	2008	2007
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	12,473	8,252
Prepayments	2,003	2,326
Other debtors	3,495	5,536
	17,970	16,114

7. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2008	2007
	£	£
Accruals	14,462	9,515
Other creditors	1,645	952
	16,107	10,467

8. Funds

		Other	2008	2007
		School	restricted	Total
		fund	funds	Total
		£	£	£
At 1 January		1,565	2,240	3,805
Income	Note 2	61	2,920	2,981
Transfer from general funds		-	-	-
Expenditure	Note 3	-	(1,082)	(1,082)
At 31 December		1,626	4,078	5,703

The restricted funds include the School fund and a number of other restricted funds. Other restricted funds are principally made up of funds donated for the sole purpose of expenditure on sound and vision equipment (£2,698), pastoral care (£514) and kitchen facilities (£505).

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST SEBASTIAN, WOKINGHAM
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2008, which are set out on pages 6 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and Section s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Jacob George
74 Salisbury Close
Alton
GU14 2TP

20 April 2009