



The Parish Church of Keswick St. John Annual Report Booklet 2007/08

*including the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December 2007
for the Annual General Meeting following the Sung Eucharist on 20 April 2008*

THE PREFACE

*The Mission Statement of the Parish Church of Keswick St John –
In friendship together we resolve to:-
Worship God, serve the community and share our faith in Jesus Christ.*

It is just over two years since I became vicar at St. John's. As I look back I am grateful for all the support I have received and for those who give of their time to make the church what it is. We give of our time because this is the way the body of Christ must operate if it is to thrive and grow. Increasingly ministry must be viewed from the prism of the laity and not the clergy. Clergy need to allow the people of God the necessary freedom to develop their gifts and in so doing sustain the church and hopefully enable it to grow.

Keswick St. John has been around for exactly 170 years. In that time it has served the vast majority of people who live in Keswick, in order that it continues to do so we need to reach out to others and draw them into our life and worship. This must mean a major focus should be on our young people. It was therefore especially pleasing to see eight of them confirmed by the Bishop of Carlisle. They have continued to worship regularly and now have their own youth group (St. John's Tygers). We must value and support all our young ones. There is much scope for growth in all these young groups including Tiny Tots and Sunday school. At the same time links with the church school should be developed and strengthened. We can never afford to be complacent.

Above all we must seek to remain a place where kindness and love make a real difference. Jane Austen said that without true kindness everything falls apart. If we are kind and generous to each other others will want to be with us and our church will be thriving in another 170 years.

Canon Stephen Pye

THE PARISH CHURCH OF KESWICK ST JOHN
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FUNDS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007

2006		2007
	PERMANENT ASSETS	
	<i>Investment trusts administered by the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd.</i>	
	A total investment of 1213.25 ordinary shares in the CBF Investment Fund.	
Current Value of Ordinary Shares in CBF Investment Fund		Current Value of Ordinary Shares in CBF Investment Fund
14,865	TOTAL PERMANENT ASSETS	15,057
	CURRENT ASSETS	
	<i>Investments administered by the Parochial Church Council</i>	
	<u>Shares (at current value)</u>	
17,251	1408 Ordinary shares CBF Investment Fund	17,474
	<u>Current Accounts</u>	
130	Petty Cash Float	100
—	® CBF Deposit Account - General Fund	1,000 ®
8,879	- General Fund	8,366
—	® Cash at Bank - General Fund	398 ®
5,772	- General Fund	2,105
3,792	® CBF Deposit Account - Restoration Fund	2,645 ®
18,573		14,614
	® = restricted funds	
35,824	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	32,088
	LIABILITIES	
10,000	Creditor – Medium Term Loan, Carlisle DBF	10,000
8,666	5 years from Sept 2002. Repaid to date	10,000
1,334		—
—	Sundry Creditors	—
1,334	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	—
34,490	NET CURRENT ASSETS	32,088

I have examined the books and records of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Keswick, St John for the year 2007 and certify that the Receipts and Payments accounts for the year and the Statement of Funds as at 31st December 2007 are in agreement with the books and records.

Glenda Holme (Mrs.)

12 January 2008

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF KESWICK ST JOHN
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2007**

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF KESWICK ST JOHN
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2007**

2006		2007
	VOLUNTARY INCOME	
8,955	Church Cash Collections	9,749
4,303	Weddings & Funerals	3,837
25,355	Planned Giving	30,279
1,950	One Off and Annual Donations	1,652
7,374	Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	8,830
1,308	Sundry Donations	1,774
<u>49,245</u>		56,121
	OTHER ORDINARY INCOME	
3,065	Fund Raising Events	3,081
578 ®	Charity Appeals	484 ®
2,293	Church Rentals/Charges	1,383
4,113 ®	Gift Day (including Gift Aid Tax recovery)	3,534 ®
1,392	Parish Magazine	1,480
5,551	Fees	5,498
<u>16,992</u>		15,460
	INVESTMENT INCOME	
1,545	Dividends and Interest	1,278
449	Trusts	485
<u>1,994</u>		1,763
68,231	SUB TOTAL OF ORDINARY INCOME	73,344
	EXTRAORDINARY INCOME	
120 ®	Grants	120 ®
1,000	Legacies	209
—	Specified Gifts	140
— ®	Special Appeals	417 ®
—	Other Funds Generated	112
<u>1,120</u>		998
69,351	TOTAL INCOME	74,342
11,401	<i>Excess of Expenditure over Income</i>	2,627
<u>80,752</u>		<u>76,969</u>

® = Restricted Income

2006		2007
	PROPERTY EXPENSES	
6,260	Churchyard Maintenance	6,291
1,508	Church Maintenance	1,079
3,743	Church Insurance	3,917
2,100	Heating, Lighting, net.	2,655
1,130	Servicing Organ and Piano	592
<u>14,741</u>		14,534
	OTHER ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	
3,386	Parish Expenses	3,986
4,819	Upkeep of Services	4,331
834	Stationary & Office Expenses	476
320	Publicity	413
1,128	Parish Magazine	1,526
1,272	Donations to Charities – from Church	1,349
2,140	– from Funerals	1,466
957	Clergy Fees to Diocese	183
29	Sundry Expenses	70
320	Cost of Parish Activities	1,063
689	Training & Education	1,135
<u>15,894</u>		15,998
<u>43,194</u>	DIOCESAN QUOTA	<u>45,871</u>
73,829	SUB TOTAL OF ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	76,403
	EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE	
300	Loan interest	200
—	Church clock restoration	—
5,928	Restoration of Graveyard Paths	—
695	Purchase of Church Computer	366
<u>6,923</u>		566
<u>80,752</u>	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>76,969</u>

BAND OF SILVER AND BRASSES

We meet once a month, usually on Monday mornings to clean the wonderful brasses of St. John's Church. We also wash and polish the silver communion plate. This is a useful job that keeps our church shining. Susan Leighton, Vicky Emley and Marjorie Browne polish the collection plates, the candlesticks, the crosses and silver communion cups. Arthur Ibbotson and Pearl Wilson clean and polish all the commemorative plaques and brass plates around the walls, the lantern in the Lady Chapel, a tricky one this, even the drawer and door knobs get some attention. We swap jobs in time of need and help one another especially in caring for Marianne, Cordelia and Ellen, Arthur's favourites.

Like Lucy we have often dwelt unknown but form a staunch and happy band.

Now Susan has to leave us. We are very grateful for her help in the last few years during a very busy time in her life. She has been a treasure. Is there any church member who might like to make a contribution in keeping our church beautiful? If you can spare an hour a month we would be delighted to hear from you.

Marjorie Browne

BOOKSTALL

The Bookstall has been in church for 10 years now and sadly, as there are difficulties at SPCK the future is very uncertain at present.

Should this be the last year for the Bookstall I would like to thank everyone who has supported this venture so faithfully over the years.

Stephnie Critchley

CAMEO LADIES GROUP

This group continues to thrive with many and varied speakers and events. We have an average attendance of 20 each month, but would encourage and welcome more. If anyone is interested in joining this very friendly and happy group, please speak to me, you are welcome to come to any single meeting or all of them.

Again I would like to say a very special thank you to the Sisters for their kindness in allowing us to meet each month in Holy Name House.

Stephnie Critchley

CHARITIES, MISSION AND FAIR TRADE SUB-GROUP

The group overviews the charitable giving, mission activities and Fair Trade commitment for our church. It met for the first time in April 2007 and has had six meetings during the year.

Our priority this year has been charitable giving. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, through special collections, a coffee morning and a slide show, we raised money for both our 2007 and 2008 contributions to the Diocesan Church Urban Fund. There have also been special appeals for world emergencies. Our new initiative of the 'shared' Christmas card, made by our Sunday School members, enabled us to send £225 to the Eden Valley Children's Hospice.

Our Lent collection boxes this year were for/raised £335.35 for a Church Mission Society project in a Lebanese slum area between the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian camps in Beirut, where war-displaced Beirutis and gypsies live. The Diocese has a Mission Link with Madras and we hope that the Bishop of Madras will be able to visit St. John's during the summer to talk about the work there.

Various members of our church congregation participate in what might be described as mission work within Keswick community. Such activities include the Street Prayer Cards; assisting with various activities arising from the Convention including services and catering (whether at the centre's own coffee shop or at Southey Street Methodist Church); Tiny Tots; other playgroups; the Lent Lunches; and delivery of Christian Aid envelopes.

The Church continues to use Fair Trade coffee and tea after services. Several members of the congregation are personal members of the Keswick Fair Trade Group, and support their activities.

Members of the Group are: Ailsa Benson, Bob Bryden, Rosemary Elliott, Jean Hall and Sheila Scott.

Ailsa Benson

CHOIR

On a week by week basis we now have a regular four-part choir of seventeen members.

This means that our choir membership at time of print is:

Sopranos: Mary Davies, Hannah Leighton, Margaret Purkiss, Hannah Roberts, Sister Constance, Sandra Train. Pam Scriven, Vicki Emley, Brenda Bryden and Abbie Wood

Altos: Penny Duttson and Stephnie Critchley

Tenors: Ray Trickey and Roger Purkiss,

Basses: Cliff Hale, Bob Bryden and Alan Daniels

Liz Hale decided to take a break from the choir last year due to her substantial churchwarden commitments. We hope in time she will rejoin us!

As per our usual arrangement we augmented for Christmas and Easter enabling 'singing in the choir' to be inclusive and flexible. I am delighted that established choristers are coming back over and over again and 'new faces' still join us. This year it was extremely pleasing to have such a large number of augmented choristers for Easter. Thank you for your support!

I conclude my report by thanking all the choir for their huge commitment and energy, their openness to a variety of musical styles and their warm and inclusive welcome to new folk. In addition I would like to thank John Green for accompanying us on the organ this year. We are lucky to have his talent, which brings added value to our worship at St John's. John's expertise is enabling me to be more varied in my choice of music so do make a special effort to come to the annual 'Evening with St John's Choir'

Sunday 29th June 6pm. I hope it will be a real treat!

Well done everyone. I am looking forward to moving into our 9th year together!

Rachel Head

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KESWICK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

We are very fortunate in Keswick to belong to a friendly and active Churches Together. Our St. John's CTIK members are Vicar Stephen Pye, Reader Susan Leighton and Bob Bryden. Representatives from nearly all Keswick churches come together three times a year for meetings. The meetings organise regular UNITED SERVICES and a wide variety of COMMUNITY EVENTS. Our CTIK Chair is Jill Sturges (Crosthwaite), Secretary Revd. Jennet McCleod (Methodist) and Treasurer Barry Cox (Bassenthwaite).

Last year CTIK took a stall for the traditional Keswick Fayre and on Christmas Eve led carolling in the Market Square in aid of the Darfur Emergency Appeal. It was "full house" again for the Barn Dance (thank you 'Travelling Light' and Keswick Convention). Six Lent Lunches raised £1,000.00 for Christian Aid and on Easter Day the Segretta Stompers Jazz Band livened up the Easter Procession from the Catholic Church to the Moot Hall. Christian Aid week again drew a small army of volunteers for a coffee morning, children's sports and house to house collecting. A record £6,407.00 was raised.

Thanks to Richard Dawling (Bassenthwaite) we now have a web site (www.ctik.org.uk) and lists of Keswick Church Services available for hotels and guest houses.

Bob Bryden

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We are delighted to have had some new members join the team. We are now an active team of twelve though, of course, not everyone can come every time. We still enjoy the hospitality of the Sisters at Holy Name House for our coffee break and take this opportunity to thank them for their generosity.

Last October we planted a whole sack of daffodils, which was the first of three, donated in

memory of the late Bill Purkiss. You will see these round the base of the notice board on the corner of Church Lane and St John's Terrace, each side of the steps down from the terrace and filling in the gap across from Holy Name House. The remaining sacks will be planted over the next two autumns.

We have spent some time clearing, tidying and weeding both the top and bottom of the new graveyard. These days, it is obligatory for those who need to use weedkiller, for example, on the paths, in a public place (which the churchyard is), to hold a certificate of competence. Our contractor is hoping to gain this qualification soon, and will, therefore, in this coming season, be able to apply weedkiller to all the paths.

It will be necessary to remove all the main weeds from the paths to make them tidy, after the application of the weedkiller. After that, they should look much better.

We noticed that, last Spring, there were two early purple orchids which had grown in the grass on the north side of the church. We are hoping that these will reappear this year as they are one of our native wild flowers. Two of us did remove and burn all the ragwort we could find when it appeared.

Following on from last year's report with its mention of 'naturalising' certain areas of the churchyard, we have consulted the Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Alison Reed visited a group us on 10th March. We are waiting to hear if we have been 'adopted' as one of their churchyards for special assistance over the next 3 years.

She suggested that the area for naturalising (becoming a wildflower meadow) should be that at the foot of the slope below the terrace, close to the Borrowdale Road. Her view was that the grass should be cut and cleared as soon as possible in that area and then not cut again until late July/August. She gave us a lot of advice for other areas including making rough bays for the composting of the grass cuttings. She also suggested that, if possible, we involve local school children in helping care for the churchyard. She could be able to assist with this by going to the school[s] to talk to them.

We are aware that some people find the idea of 'naturalising' parts of the churchyard very

unwelcome. However, we feel that such a move would actually make the churchyard much more attractive, particularly as we have neither manpower nor finance to keep it to the high standard it once would have had (pre WW II, perhaps?). At present, the grass is cut, if the weather permits, two or three times each year. If the mowing is timed right, wildflowers will be encouraged to grow and that, surely, will look much better than the rank grass which was evident last year in certain areas?

The area now available for burials is very small and it may be that we are faced with the closure of the burial ground sooner, rather than later. The local authority would then be asked to look after it.

We do not have, at present, the resources to bring any more of the 'wild' area into use.

Where do we go from here?

Penny Dutton

DERWENT DEANERY AND CARLISLE DIOCESAN SYNOD

Last year was a busy year for the Deanery. Not only did we have the 'Walk Cumbria Mission' from 28th April - 4th May 07, but also the 'Out of the Blue Deanery Mission' with the Bishop of Carlisle from 13th - 21st October 07.

As you can imagine both of these weeks took much planning, though most of the work did not involve St John's directly.

However, we did give a lot of help with the Fair Trade Café that took place in the Moot Hall during Walk Cumbria, and Linda Ball held an event called 'Tea at Three' with the Bishop in Portland Place guest house. So a big thank you to all who were involved in either of these events.

I am due to step down from the Deanery Synod this year.

This last year I was invited to be on the Carlisle Diocesan Synod. So far I have attended the evening Synod last June, and an all day Synod in November. The shorter meeting was mainly business, whereas the all day meeting included a Bible Study led by the Bishop of Penrith, and a presentation entitled Rural Life, Rural Church

by Mr Ken Roy of the Commission for Rural Communities.

The Synod on Nov 10th included a Private Member's Motion on the Future of Border Television. We voted in favour of the Motion to urge Ofcom to reject the plans of Independent Television to reduce the number and duration of regional news and general interest programmes.

We also had an interesting presentation involving three members of the General Synod, detailing their involvement at this level on our behalf. I have a booklet available for anyone to borrow entitled 'A Summery of Synods (and how your parish relates to the General Synod)'.

Susan Leighton

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll was dissolved at the end of April 2007 and all members of Keswick St. John were asked to complete a new application for enrolment. If you have not yet done so, or you are new to St. John's and would like to enrol, please let me know and I will give you a form.

At the 2007 AGM the number of people on the Electoral Roll was 169, the current number is 118. Part of the reason for the reduction in numbers is that many regular worshippers have not completed a new application form. Two people have left the area and several others are no longer attending.

Ann Goodfellow

FABRIC REPORT

This past year has seen some changes in our approach to care of the 'fabric' of the church. A Fabric & Finance Committee has been set up and this meets at regular intervals during the year with the specific aim of seeing what needs to be done to keep our building in good repair, and attending to what is needed. At present the committee consists of Richard Critchley, Peter Graham, Cliff Hale, Stephen Pye and the Wardens, and we thank those members for all their hard work.

The committee has organised two Church Maintenance Working Parties which were attended by a good number of parishioners – one

day concentrating on indoor jobs, and the second out of doors. Indoors, a thorough inspection took place to establish exactly where woodworm existed and this was entered on a plan of the church (courtesy of Richard Critchley) and appropriate action will be taken once options are investigated; a toilet was redecorated following ingress of water; a broken cupboard in the Vestry was repaired and re-hung and the wall made good; thorough cleaning of the tower rooms and repairs. Out of doors, preservative was applied to all exterior gates, light and boundary posts.

Our church clock has been attended to, on several occasions, and at present seems to be going well.

The annual fire inspection took place, and some extinguishers have been upgraded and additional ones provided.

As usual the Insurance has been renewed, and the annual inventory has taken place.

Conclusion

St. John's church is very lucky in having a number of people willing to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the building, and of the churchyard. We would like to thank all those who have taken part in working parties during the past year, and to those brave souls who each month work in the graveyard.

Special thanks also go to those unsung heroes who week-by-week clean our church and the brass and silver. You do a great job and it is very much appreciated. Another job faithfully done is the care of the church linen. We are so lucky to have expert help in this area. Again, the thanks of us all to our linen ladies. We do appreciate all that is done to keep our church in good order.

We would finish by saying that additional volunteers are always welcome; and if anyone has expertise in any field we would like to hear from them so we can benefit from their knowledge. When possible, and where appropriate, we try to do work ourselves to keep costs down.

Brian Watterson & Elizabeth Hale

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The flowers at St John's always look beautiful and I would like to thank everyone on the team for their continued support and commitment. We are gradually building up our team of flower arrangers, especially the extra help we get for special occasions which is very much appreciated by all of us and it makes decorating the church so much easier and fun when there are plenty of us around. We had a team of twelve this Easter which was fantastic. We are still looking to expand the team, if you would like to have a go, I will be happy to give some help and training.

I would also like to thank the members of the church for continuing to generously donate towards the cost of the flowers, without you we would not be able to create the varied arrangements that we do.

If anyone is interested in having an arrangement made for a loved one or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary we will be delighted to do an arrangement for you. Please see me in church or call me on 017687 76687.

Sue Lake

HOME GROUPS

The Springs Road home group has flourished during the year under review, with an attendance of 14 on one occasion, and much interest shown in the topics for discussion. As friendships grow and deepen, so mutual trust has led to a very frank and open sharing of experiences & opinions.

In the summer of 2007 the book 'Secular lives, Sacred hearts' by Dr Alan Billings evoked admiration and keen study, and led to a more sympathetic awareness of the continued importance of the parish church in many people's lives for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

By contrast, examination of the Book of Revelation in the autumn of 2007 provoked such excitement that it had to be continued through the winter and into 2008! Revelation remains a strange book, but wrestling prayerfully with it brought shafts of light and glimmers of understanding.

Now, in the summer of 2008, we turn our attention to look at God – which you might think perfectly proper for a home group of the Christian Church! New members always welcome – come & enjoy it.

David Edwards

JULIAN GROUP

During the last year the Julian Group has met most first and third Wednesdays in the month at 7:30pm in Holy Name House. We begin with an introduction based on a passage of scripture and a spoken prayer. We then have 30 minutes of silent prayer ending with the Lord's Prayer and the Grace. The purpose of the silence is to rest in the Lord appreciating his love surrounding us. We remain a small group of 6-10 people but would welcome anyone wishing to come to a meeting.

Brian Selvey

MEN'S GROUP

The group has continued to meet over the last year with the number of regular members remaining steady again at 12 per meeting.

We have held three joint meetings with CAMEO which included the last meeting of 2006-2007 - a visit to Rydal Hall; a talk given by Giles Wingate-Saul QC on "An Advocates Journey From Magistrates Court to the House of Lords" and finally the Lent Meeting in Church which was a slide presentation by Rev John Repath on The Holy Land.

Our other meetings in 2007 included a visit to the Beacon Museum in Whitehaven, a slide presentation "From Sinai to Skiddaw" by Dr David Edwards and finally our Christmas Dinner, again held at Castlehead House Hotel.

In the New Year we were told "How to live longer than Women" by Dr Tim Hooper and then taken "From London to Darjeeling in a London Taxi" by Michael Pye. This was held as a Breakfast Meeting and judging by the requests for another such meeting proved to be successful.

After his TV appearance on "The Antiques Road Show" Rev Brian Selvey will be giving us a talk

in April on the World War II Mulberry Harbours and our year will conclude with an outing with the CAMEO group.

The meetings have been opened up to visitors including women and one meeting was held as Breakfast Meeting. This approach has encouraged new faces to meetings and we hope to continue with new ideas during the coming year.

Peter Graham

MOTHERS' UNION

Meetings run from January to March and from October to December on the first and third Tuesday of the month. However, like the windmill, the Mothers' Union never closes and our summer break last year held much interest in itself.

On May 1st, 2007, a warm spring evening six members drove to Bolton Gate to the Deanery Service with our banner. The MU must be a lifeline in this lovely, pleasant and isolated village.

The annual outing organised by our leader Melles Green proved successful and enjoyable especially the tour of Carlisle Cathedral, tea with their MU members and Evensong. There was much warmth and generosity and we loved the singing of the young choir at Evensong.

It was our turn to offer hospitality when in June we were visited by St. John's Church, Upperby, Carlisle MU group. After lunch and shopping in Keswick in the pouring rain, they reached the sanctuary of the church. They received a tour of the church and a talk on the history of it, kindly given by Margaret Armstrong. Tea was served to them in Holy Name House by some of our members.

One of the highlights of the autumn meetings, still on the theme "Faith in Action" was our visit to Crosthwaite to hear Nancy Bennell's talk about her work with the children of prisoners at Haverigg. Another memorable meeting was when the Revd. Bryan Rothwell spoke about his work at St. John in the Vale Youth Centre. Faith in action indeed!

December the 18th found all three MU groups Crosthwaite, Borrowdale & Braithwaite and St. John's in HNH again to hear Dr Maurice Hamilton's humorous description of his life as a rural GP. I find it almost impossible to pick and choose. All our talks and meetings have a charm of their own and often hold a surprising element for us.

Our theme for 2008, in progress now, is "Time for Relationship" and a copy of this programme is on the church notice board. It is full of good things.

Membership is presently 17 including our one indoor member Betty Sandham. We would like more. Why not join? You will be most welcome.

We enjoy meeting in HNH and appreciate our luck in being able to do so. I would like to thank Sister Julie and all the sisters, on behalf of the members, for their friendliness, help and hospitality.

Marjorie Browne

MUSIC IN CHURCH

The 2007 concert season began with "The seven last words from the cross" by Joseph Haydn played brilliantly by the Fitzwilliam string quartet; Revd David Edwards supplied the meditations. The annual Jazz Songs of Praise saw a large congregation; the Riverside band played and Delia (who has sadly died of cancer recently) sang. The Cologne Philharmonic gave their now annual concert in July; this is now one of our best-supported events. In August we helped raise money for St. Bega's Bassenthwaite by hosting a concert given by the K-shoe male voice choir. August saw Charles Edmonson and flautist perform to a near empty church (the effort involved far out-weighting any pecuniary advantage to us). "Simply opera" by the Encore opera group from south Lakeland added a new dimension to our concert programme and saw a small but appreciative audience. St. John's choir together with our young musicians showed us the depth of musical talent we have as well as being very uplifting for a large audience/congregation. As always we are grateful to all who help in any way, not least

with providing refreshments. Net income for the 2007 season was £917.

Stephen Pye

PARISH MAGAZINE

Things are looking up. We have now had to order more copies of the Parish Magazine to cope with an increasing demand. However there are spare copies still available and if you would like one with your name on please let me know.

This year I have had some help putting the magazines in the rounds, and the new typed names are also the result of this extra welcome help. Thank you to all who deliver the rounds. The infrequent lack of change in the deliverers is a testimony to their steadfastness, and willingness to brave all weathers.

I am still looking for someone to take over my role in this work, anyone interested? Please let me know.

Susan Leighton

PCC REPORT

Since the 2007 AGM there have been five meetings held with one to follow on the 3rd April. Items which have been discussed are: -

- a) A candle stand in memory of Jessie Panter has been purchased.
- b) Maintenance of the graveyard has frequently been discussed, considering extending the burial site. The amount of work needed to take place has also been explored. The town council are going to be informed.
- c) Cumbria clocks have fixed the clock.
- d) The plans for the reorganisation of the rear of the church have been drawn up by Richard Critchly and been agreed upon.
- e) Street prayers has begun and received positive feedback. The only drawback being the lack of volunteers to distribute the prayer cards.

- f) It was agreed that the church fete would continue, but more effort must be made to recruit volunteers for the setting up and taking down of the stalls.
- g) A review of Easter 2007 led to a lent course for Easter 2008.
- h) An update on the stewardship led to 53 responses with 36 people increasing their giving.
- i) Following the confirmation of eight of the children from the congregation, they decided to continue meeting once a month. The children have given a very positive response.
- j) It was decided that George Page would become our negotiator for the parish share, which is still under debate.
- k) Susan Leighton assisted with the church's connection to the 'Out of the Blue' deanery mission.
- l) The survival to revival target was decided on, to continue with the reorder of the back of the church and to build on the post confirmation group, developing and sustaining the young people's mission.
- m) It has been decided that Christmas cards will be introduced for fundraising next year. George Page has arranged with a local photographer to take a photograph of the church in the snow.
- n) Susan Leighton began a spiritual companionship course.
- o) The priority of the meetings of late has been how we can reduce expenditure or increase income.

Rachel Frampton

PRAYER GROUP AND PRAYER CHAIN

“When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words be without heart.” John Bunyan.

The Prayer group has 8 regular members. It would be great to have more, even if you can only come irregularly. We meet on THURSDAY mornings from 9-30 to 10-15, in Holy Name House and we are grateful to the Community for their warm welcome.

We believe that prayer changes things - as I am sure you do. Prayer does not have to be long or complicated, it can be short and simple, but must be sincere.

What do we pray about? We have requests, which are on the board at the back of the church, and some come by personal contact. PLEASE say if you would like prayer for needs for yourself, family, friends etc. or have Special Thanks to share. We pray for each and every aspect of our church fellowship. If YOU are on the Electoral Roll, any church Rota, belong to any group - from the youngest to the oldest, live in our parish or (not least) serve in any ministry role then YOU are prayed for. We also pray for our local area, country, world matters, and missions. You name it, we can pray about it.

The Prayer chain also works by request. Two "chains" are both started by Anne Corry (74015) and the total number of members is 16. If you could be a "link" we can slot in lots more! You receive a call from the person above you and pass it on to the next in line. One call in and one call out - that's all usually.

All requests for both groups are STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

"When I pray co-incidences happen. When I stop praying the co-incidences stop." Archbishop William Temple.

Anne Corry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have 22 children who attend Sunday School throughout the year, with two little ones to join us after Easter. The age range is huge, from 14 to 2yrs, so quite challenging at times for those running it! This year we have increased our leaders to 6, with Rachel Frampton & Jonathan Pye joining us. The bookstall kindly bought us 8 Good News Bibles, which are used each week with the older group. We continue to use Scripture Union's materials, which work well

with the age ranges, although there is never enough time to complete it all!

The older children stepped aside to let the younger children perform the nativity which went very well, & was enjoyed by all. Those who play instruments did a lovely rendition of the Carol of the Drum with Rachel.

We have planned to go ten pin bowling in May for the annual outing. We are also planning a sponsored swim at the Leisure pool for the Tiny Tots & Cockermouth pool for the older children, with Ann Clinker's help, to raise funds for church.

Finally my thanks to Jane, Jonathan, Rachel, Sally & Tracy for their commitment throughout the year.

Cathy Hooper

TAPESTRY MUSIC GROUP

Tapestry continues to support our worship during Sunday worship, Special Services, Convention Services and Songs of Praise.

Brian has taken a break, due to his churchwarden responsibilities, so we have shrunk a little this year. However, positively we have been experimenting with trickier settings of worship songs and continuing to enjoy making a contribution to the worship.

Again the young people are beginning to find their musical 'feet' and their contribution to our summer concert was terrific. In time, I believe Tapestry will develop from within our church family which is great.

If you are an instrumentalist who would be interested in finding out more about Tapestry please come and see me for an informal chat after a Sunday Service.

Rachel Head - keyboard

Brenda Bryden - flute

Rosemary Goodeve - flute

Hannah Roberts - violin

My thanks to Brenda, Hannah and Rosemary for their support, commitment and musical efforts this year

Rachel Head

TEA FUND

It has been another successful year, due in no small part to the generosity and loyal support of many people. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the people who give so generously and offer practical help to keep the important part of our Church Family Life active. Without your help this would not be possible.

No major purchases have been made this year from the Tea Fund. Cold meats have been bought for lunches, and a new electric kettle. The balance of the account as of 14th March 2008 is £1,152.59 and probably some of this will be useful for the purchase of some items for the “children’s corner” when it is completed.

Remember we are always eager to welcome new people to the “team”, male or female! I’m sure you will have noticed on Sunday mornings and at concerts etc. both sexes “enjoy” washing up and serving tea, coffee and fruit juice!

I enjoy being involved in this aspect of our work in church and your friendship, fellowship and support are of great importance to me. Thank you all.

Cynthia Scott

TINY TOTS REPORT

A number of our children have graduated this year and left to join the afternoon nursery groups. We held a leavers’ party in July when each child was presented with a pencil case and a card wishing them well.

Two new children have joined which is good. Ten children with ages ranging from under one year to four years are now regular members of Tiny Tots.

At various times, such as the last session before Christmas when school term had ended, our old boys and girls have rejoined us. We held a puppet show based on the Christmas Story, when the oldest leaver was an extremely able

assistant puppeteer. “The Good Samaritan” was another puppet show that was greatly enjoyed and included much audience participation.

We still meet on alternate Wednesdays during the school term at 1:30 at the back of the Church. Mothers and/or Grandmothers bring the children. As always, we process (walking!) to the chancel where a child carrying the altar cloth puts it on the little table. Two others place the Cross and a little silver bell on the cloth. The child rings the bell and we are ready to begin. At the start of the very short service, a child is chosen to come into the Sanctuary to help light the candle on the main altar. We try to keep the Chancel and the Sanctuary special where the children walk and don’t play games. The service is comprised of a short prayer and a Bible story based on the theme for the term. We then sing a song accompanied by the percussion instruments. This is not quiet. After the Lord’s Prayer and a Blessing, everyone processes back down the aisle to a table where an activity based on the story is laid out. Sometimes the children will make something from prepared paper or card like the Crosses for Easter, sometimes they will make a figure from Playdough. Often the children’s work is displayed on the cupboard at the back of the Church. Do look out for their efforts. After the activity, a drink and a biscuit with a cup of tea for the adults is very welcome. This is a valuable time for the parents to chat. The children then explore the nave and are, as they grow older, beginning to be able to look for things. Before Easter we looked for Crosses in the church and found six. Running up and down the nave is greatly enjoyed as well.

Some of the children joined in the Sunday School Nativity play and several enjoyed the June Sunday School outing to Rheged for a roll around in the soft play area.

Tiny Tots is open to all children from nought to nursery school age. Some children attend St John’s whilst others are members of other churches. We are hoping that the membership will increase as the parents inform others of the group. We would value your prayers for this very lively group of beginners in the Faith.

Rosemary Elliott

AGENDA FOR THE VESTRY MEETING AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – SUNDAY, 20 APRIL 2008

VESTRY MEETING

1. Attendance
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, Sunday, 25 March 2007
3. Appointment of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Attendance
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, Sunday, 25 March 2007
3. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
4. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
5. Deanery Synod Representation
6. Election of Three P.C.C. Members
7. Presentation and Acceptance of the List of Sidepersons
8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
9. Presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statement
10. Sub Committee's
11. Resolutions for future P.C.C.