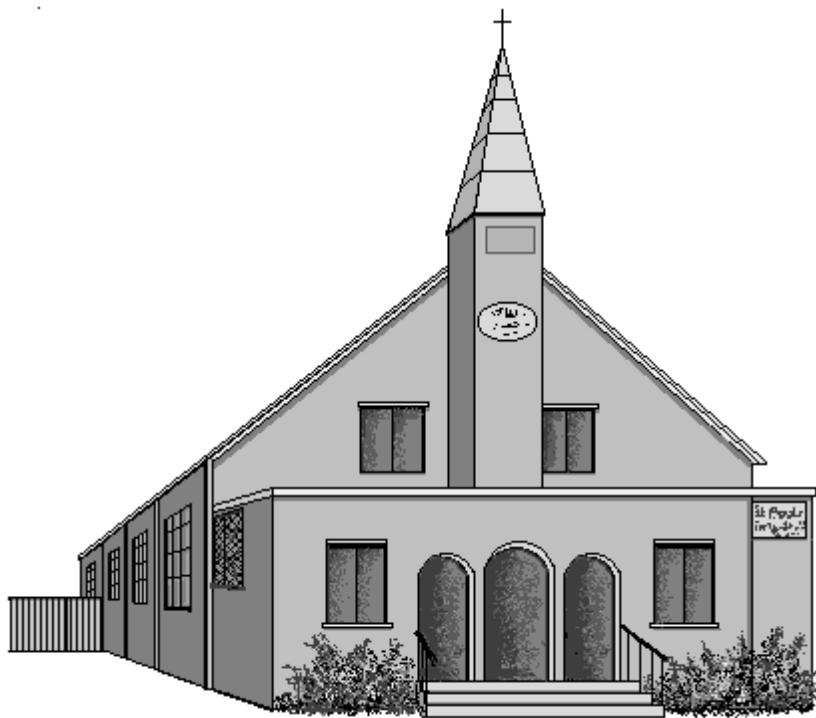


ST PAUL'S HAINAULT



2007/2008
ANNUAL
REPORTS

St Paul's Church, Hainault

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

During the Morning Service 10am Sunday 30th March 2008

AGENDA

1. **Opening Worship and Prayer**
2. **Minutes of the 2007 APCM**
3. **Approval of the Minutes**
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes (please mention to the chairman in advance)**
5. The election of Churchwardens for 2008/2009
6. **The election of the Parochial Church Council for 2008/2009**
7. **Presentation of Reports:**

(a) Vicar's Report	As in the Published Reports
(b) Churchwardens' Report	“
(c) PCC Secretary's Report	“
(d) Treasurer's Report and Accounts	
(e) Electoral Roll	
(f) Deanery Synod Report	“
(g) Spring Harvest Report	“
8. **Appointment of Auditor**
9. **Plans for the Sensory Garden and the Linkway**
10. **Coming events**
11. **Any other Business (Items to be notified to the chair before the meeting)**
12. **Close with prayer and a hymn.**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St. Paul's Church Hainault

10am 25th March 2007

1. **Present:** 52 (including children)
2. The meeting opened with Worship and Prayer
3. Chris proposed Helen Duke as minute secretary for the meeting seconded by Pauline Sheridan.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of 2nd April 2006:** Proposed Tom Gough as correct, seconded Charmaine Andrews. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
6. **Election of Church Wardens:**

Nominated	Proposed by	Seconded by
Jill James	Paul Wragg	Rob Whittaker

Chris expressed his thanks to Mike Clare for the last 2 ½ years as Church Warden and said he was sorry Mike is stepping down. Jill James was formerly elected as Church Warden. Jill will have a lot to cope with on her own and Chris asked that people would support Jill. Pauline Sheridan, Ellen Hunt, Charmaine Andrews and Helen Duke offered to help her wherever possible. Chris said he would prefer that we had a Rota planned 1 month in advance for the various tasks within the Church, i.e. Reading, Stewarding, Computer etc.

7. Election of PCC Members:

Nominated	Proposed by	Seconded by
Pauline Sheridan	Jill James	Mike Clare
Ellen Hunt	Jill James	Pauline Sheridan
Helen Duke	Jill James	Ellen Hunt
Sandra Woodard	Jill James	Mike Clare
Sharon Dillimore	Sarah Clarke-Moisley	Steve Thorpe

Chris thanked Wendy Thorpe and June Clare who will be standing down this year. Lisselle Clarke-Moisley and another will be the youth representatives for this year. Chris Cant, Sue Hartley, Sarah Clarke-Moisley and Jill James automatically serve on the PCC.

Agreed. Chris prayed for the PCC at the front of the Church.

8. Presentation of Reports:

These were mainly as published:

Vicars Report

Churchwardens Report

PCC Secretary Report

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Deanery Synod Report

Spring Harvest Report

a) **Treasurer's Report:**

June Clare said running the Church is like running a small business as well as bringing people to God. Our heating is a big bill. We had moved from British Gas to Scottish Power but were now moving back to British Gas to supply our gas again. The overall cost per paid clergy run at £37,000 per year, which is paid through the Diocese via the Family Purse. Our Family Purse is around £22,000 and should have been increased to £25,000 but we have been granted a subsidy for the next year. We ended 2006 with £1,500 balance in the bank and had managed to pay the Family Purse in full. We have a further £2,300 in restricted funds. We can apply for further grants and June said how important it is for people to try and give on a regular basis, which can be through standing order, the envelope box scheme or the gift aid envelopes. Barbara May had audited the accounts and June expressed her thanks to Barbara. Tom Gough gave the Church Family thanks and appreciation to June for the difficult task of being Treasurer.

b) **Electoral Roll:**

Pauline Sheridan reported that there are 41 residents and 26 non-residents making a total of 67, which is slightly reduced (75 last year). Some people had not returned forms yet so the figures will likely go up.

9. **Appointment of Auditor:** Chris thanked Barbara May for being Auditor for the last 2 years. Chris is hoping that Barbara will become more involved in the Church Accounts this year; if she does she will not be able to be auditor. If this is so Chris proposed that the PCC might appoint an Auditor. Proposed Ellen Hunt, Seconded Helen Duke. 21 agreed, none against, unanimously agreed.

Child Protection Officer: No-one has come forward willing to do this, which means that Chris will do this in the mean time. Chris said it is hoped he will find someone willing to do this and proposed that the PCC appoint someone. 21 agreed, none against, unanimously agreed.

10. **Quinquennial Report:** Work still to be done in the next 5 years:

Electrical earthing work: Tom Gough proposed that the PCC write to the hall lighting installers – but Mike thinks this was installed prior to the new regulations came in.

Renew asphalt on flat roofs.

Replace broken roof tiles on the nave.

Deal with rusting of the concrete pillars in the hall.

The PCC will look at the list at the Away Day and prioritise. Annie Parkes has agreed we can use the remaining funds from the Cubs to mend the garage roof.

Work remaining to complete the Projector Project:

Remove old screen

Tidy up the wiring

Purchase a flat screen and wall mount

Purchase an oak cupboard to house the computer.

Work already agreed by the PCC:

Moving washbasin to the toilets to replace broken one and putting a sink unit and hot water in the office.

Being investigated: Opening door from the Chapel to the backfield – making it suitable for children to use.

11. Coming events including the Vicar's Sabbatical beginning in October:

7th April	'Shattered' – sponsored event for CEP
10th – 15th April	Spring Harvest
4th – 6th May	Trip to Walsingham
20th May	Poverty Lunch
25th – 27th May	Canal Holiday for Highlanders
27th May	Global Day of Prayer in West Ham Stadium 3 – 5.30 pm
9th June	Summer Fayre
1st July	Ordination of Marie Segal
23rd – 27th July	Highlander Holiday Club
20th – 24th August	Holiday Club for younger ones
September	Youth Alpha Course
8th October	Vicar begins 3 month Sabbatical

12. Any Other Business:

Sat Nav was not in the Annual Reports and Chris said he was sorry this has been missed. Steve Thorpe said how good it is and how it has brought many young people to the Church. Our thanks to Sarah Clarke-Moisley and Dave Lovelock. Mission Report was also missing, Pauline Sheridan said how important it is that we communicate with the 2 young people we have adopted, we should also pray regularly for them. Abel has recently written to us and this will appear in the next magazine.

Beryl Gough said that God has been speaking to the Sat Nav Prayer Meeting team and that God asks that we 'Trust Him' and 'open our minds and that He will bring new things to our Church'. Sharon Dillimore has Prayer meeting notes if anyone would like a copy.

Chris said we had hoped to acquire some chairs from the Manor Hall which is closing down which we could have used in the hall, but this is now unlikely as they had been sold at a higher cost than first advised. Chris said the PCC had decided in principle it may be a good idea to consider moving the Pews from the Church and that we needed to ask the Church Family at the APCM. Tom Gough said this would be very exciting if we can do this. Steve Thorpe agreed this is a practical idea and opens up the Church for many uses. 19 voted in favour, 4 against. Agreed. Madge feels the leaking roof should be addressed before considering purchasing chairs.

13. The meeting closed at 11.10 am with Prayer and Holy Communion.

VICAR'S REPORT

What a roller coaster 2007 has been! Here are some of the highs and lows. In March we had the licensing of Revd Dr Sue Hartley as associate minister and have been so thrilled to see how well her ministry has fitted into the life of St Paul's. She immediately set up the prayer ministry team with twelve members and this has been very much appreciated.



Sadly at Easter Mike and June Clare decided to leave St Paul's after being key members, along with James and Christopher, for many years. We have really missed their contribution and are still looking for a churchwarden to replace Mike. I do want to thank Ellen for stepping into the role of Treasurer and doing such a wonderfully job ably helped by Barbara May.

In June many of us went to Chelmsford for the ordination of Marie Segal. She has done so much in St Paul's and it has been such a privilege to help her find God's path through selection and training and then let her go as she serves her curacy at St Andrews, Ilford.

Another highlight of the summer was the open-air baptism of three young people: Stacey, Emma and Hannah. It has been really encouraging to see how SatNav has continued to flourish throughout the year and get invites to play at other venues.

In September Wendy Thorpe felt she should step down as leader of Highlanders – that left an enormous gap as she has done so much to build up the group to over 20 young people on a Sunday and almost as many on a Wednesday evening. Sarah Clarke-Moisley has taken on the teaching at Sunday highlanders but we are really short of others who can provide Wendy's special magic. I do want to thank her for all the years she gave so much!

Then in October I took a Sabbatical - an opportunity to do something completely different from Church. I looked into the economics and practicalities of using renewable energy to reduce the carbon footprint of church buildings. I especially wanted to find out what was possible here in St Paul's – maybe a wind turbine or solar panels?

The best solution is to rebuild the Linkway with a lounge area extending into the Back-field and use the new south facing roof for photovoltaic panels. The Linkway between the church and the Hall is in desperate need of repair and this provides the opportunity to make a really useful addition to our facilities.

This year we have only had one churchwarden and I want to thank Jill James for doing so much, often behind the scenes, for St Paul's as well as continuing her work in Busy Bees which has been more demanding than ever.

I am also really sad that Sharon Dillimore has had to give up doing the week by week admin. for St Paul's. She was such a lovely person to have around and we miss her. I don't want to end on a down so we look up and know that God will provide beyond our wildest dreams.

Christopher

PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT



Prayer ministry has been up and running again at St Paul's for nearly a year now, and I would like to express my thanks to all the team for their commitment and enthusiasm. Many of them are heavily involved in other ministries as well and some have jobs that include weekend duties.

Our numbers fell slightly in the autumn when we sadly had to say goodbye to Sam Wilkes and Paul Wragg, but we have been blessed by

Pam Hawthornthwaite and Christel Ceraline coming on to the team.



We see ongoing training and accountability as being of paramount importance. We had a series of sessions last year in which we covered the basic principles of Prayer Ministry. We are very grateful for the helpful input we have received from the Team at the Good Shepherd Church in Collier Row. We will continue to meet together regularly to learn new things, to support each other and to pray for each other.

Lisselle has attended a healing prayer school in Woodford and we are looking forward to hearing her feedback from this when we next meet as a team.



We had a very successful training day on the 2nd March under the auspices of New Wine. Our speaker was Ray Samme, the vicar of the Good Shepherd Church. About 80 people attended from churches over a wide area of the South East. There was ministry at the end of each session and

I've heard several testimonies of God's gracious work in people's lives. We are hoping to hold a similar event in the autumn but with a different speaker.



Over the past year we have occasionally had the opportunity to give prayer ministry to people in their homes when this has been more appropriate than the Sunday service context. If you ever feel that this might be helpful for you, please could you get in touch with Sue.

As we look to the future, we hope to grow numerically as a team, so if you feel that God may be calling you to join us, we invite you to come and talk to us.



I believe that the healing ministry of the church is one of the ways in which we can reach out into the community. I am seeking God's hear as to whether it might be right to hold a monthly service of healing and wholeness on a Sunday afternoon. I've been very impressed with the

Burrswood model (this is a healing centre in Kent which some of our older folks visit each year) and feel that something like that might draw in people from our local neighbourhood.

Finally I would like to thank Chris and Joanna for their wisdom, encouragement and hospitality for team meetings.

Sue Hartley February 2008

READERS REPORT: SATNAV, HIGHLANDERS

The annual reports are always a challenge. What to include? The easiest thing is work through the year month by month.

APRIL

Working the Resource Centre for the 1st week of Spring Harvest meant that I missed leading the Deanery Youth Service at St Pauls on 31st March - the first one I'd not attended. It was tough for me, but the team led the evening well. April ended with the PCC Away Day at St Peter's, Aldborough Hatch where we talked through and prayed through the plans for the ensuing year.

MAY

In the weeks before Easter, we'd run a 4 week course that looked at the mental images of God, and we'd been really pleased to welcome several of the un-churched young people, so we decided to run a series of 'movie nights' using the projector and church sound system to create a cinema effect. Each one attracted a significant number of the local young people encouraging them into the church and into the beginnings of friendships with us. The evenings were a free and simple way of building relationships with a whole new group of people looking for what Jesus can offer. The movies were fun too.

Perhaps the most amazing event of May was the Global day of Prayer held at West Ham Football ground. It was a real buzz to join 20,000 people all praying for God's word to become a very real force in the world.

JUNE

SatNav continued through June, with an inspiring level of commitment from the entire team as we knitted together new songs and developed deeper scripture understanding. We had invitations to take the band to other churches within the Deanery and to Coppice Primary School and play worship music during their summer fair... quite a huge leap towards fulfilling the hope from Spring Harvest.

JULY

July opened with an outstanding day as the SatNav team set up on the field of Coppice School. We played a wide range of worship music that told the story of the bible, of God's call to all people, of the redemptive love of Jesus. We all thoroughly enjoyed worshipping God in the outdoors, and were happy to accept a return invitation to do the same again in 2008.

Chris arranged for Brian Surtees to lead a Child Protection Training Day. So much of our ministry involves children and young people and it is an encouragement to know that we already have good policies in place.

July also saw the beginning of a new phase of Reader support. John Enever took over as LARC (local Area Reader Coordinator) and his idea is for Readers to host meetings in their own churches. In line with me never being able to sit still... we went first. It was a fun, instructive meeting that kicked off an interesting and beneficial era in Deanery Reader ministry.

The Summer Holiday Club for Highlanders was another departure from the norm (if there IS a norm for St Paul's Holiday clubs) as Rachel and Nicky took guests on a 'tour' of different countries and roped Tom in to provide an evening meal each day. It gave the leaders the opportunity to investigate their own spirituality and our



own youth space and time to learn more about God and encourage young people from the neighbourhood to maybe find out something about who this guy Jesus is. The week was rounded up with a barbecue and triple baptism in the backfield.

AUGUST

Traditionally one of the quietest months of the year, and thank God, this one was no different. At the beginning of the month, was the first Street Café. An outreach/social/fellowship event that was so full of feel-good and fun that I'm really looking forward to the next one Lisselle organises.

The month ended with Shattered, another event organised by Lisselle which was a sponsored Lock-in to raise funds for the Christian Education Project. I have, for many years, felt that God would like His word read out in His church. Not just bits but huge swathes of it. So aided by Christel and Kathy (from All Saints Woodford Wells) we spent 12 hours reading the Bible out loud. You'd be surprised just how much you can read in 12 hours. And even more surprised how moving and incredibly spirit filling it is. Beware, I'm looking for an entire weekend when we can start at Genesis and finish with Revelation.

SEPTEMBER

With Back To Church Sunday planned for the last Sunday of September - a national outreach event designed to encourage lapsed members to return and to extend a warm, attractive welcome to those who have never been. Our church has a reputation for its genuinely welcoming nature, and I thank God for those who stepped out of their comfort zones and gave their time and effort so unstintingly.

OCTOBER

Confirmations are usually planned a year in advance so I consider it a huge blessing that Bishop David was prepared to re-arrange his October Confirmation to coincide with SatNav. I cannot express the sense of honour in being allowed to write our own liturgy for the service. Bishop David told us how much he enjoyed SatNav and was impressed by the guys in the team, and the relationships and ministry he saw.

God called Wendy to step back from Highlanders completely and called me to step forward and pick it up. With co-ordinating SatNav, preaching and leading services and the other ministry times within the church already accounting for more hours in the week than a part-time job, I knew I had to be sure so I did what I usually do. I prayed. I asked God for a projector and a laptop. With no funds available I really felt I was on safe grounds.

Yeah.

Right

Except that the call was from God, so within 10 days I was plugging a brand new laptop into a brand new projector bought with 3 separate anonymous donations specifically made to our youth work.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

This year it was the turn of Highlanders to take the Nativity service. We had little time to plan and execute, but I believe the service worked well, with different groups bringing their own contribution. I have to say, I'm particularly excited about the film clip, this year Hainault, next year, Cannes?

Work was even more crazy than church. Not only were we busy with general Christmas-type stuff, we also saw a huge increase in ministry opportunities, coupled with major staff shortages due to illness. But God provides. *No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.* 1 Cor 10:13

JANUARY

The SatNav team spent a weekend away at Chellington where we sought God's plans for the New Year, and returned enlivened and re-committed to the concept of spreading the gospel through words, music and scriptures.

After much prayer I launched the new Sunday teaching pattern for the youth. Highlanders stay in the church on the first Sunday of the month but go out for longer on the 4th Traditional Communion Sunday which gives us time for icebreakers and games as well as teaching.

FEBRUARY

The sad part of February was having to announce to the Highlanders that we will be putting the Wednesday evening meetings on temporary hold, until we have sufficient leaders to run the evenings with all the enthusiasm they deserve. In the interim, Kathryn and Joanna have said that they will organise one or two events specifically for the young people. My prayer is that the right person with the vision and energy needed will come forward and we will be able to begin these evenings again in September.

We've been joined by Jimmy Burns who has started up a Street League for football and a fortnightly golfing event for youth, it's all very early days, but signs are that this will grow into something pretty amazing for not only the youth of the church, but also those contacted by Hainault Youth Action.

So there we are. The full five page version is available of I will fill you in myself if you have a week to spare.

Sarah

Churchwarden's Report

This has been a very busy year for me as the only churchwarden. There has been lots of extra work particularly during the sabbatical when Chris was away, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have helped and supported me throughout the year, I particularly would like to thank Sue Hartley who joined us earlier this year for stepping in during the sabbatical and covering all the Christmas services.

It is good to have Chris back and things back to normal.

Wendy stood down as the Highlander leader and I would like to thank Wendy for all her hard work through these many years working with the young people.

The sensory garden is moving slowly forward thanks to a small group of committed people, I would like to say a special thank you to Bob Duke for all his hard work in the garden of rest and being available to make repairs when needed.

We have been able to make good use of the computer and are now using it at each service; we have had a new sink put in the offices fitted by Bob and are hoping to have hot water supplied shortly. The door leading out from the chapel has been fitted; we are planning to make good the area outside the door to give safe access to the back field.

We have just received a grant from London Over the Boarder which will allow us to get some outstanding jobs done including the concrete posts in the hall, new roof on the garage, new notice board and new keys cut for the church.

I would like to thank Chris and Joanna for all their support and prayers over this last year.

God bless
Jill



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2007

Family Purse

First of all well done to you all, for the fourth successive year we have paid our Family Purse in full. As Treasurer I do realise the effort that this takes and the PCC would like to thank each and every one of you for your generosity. The Family Purse for 2008 is £22,780 which includes a discount given to us by the Diocese in recognition of the work we do and the financial situation of our Church Family. Our church giving in 2007 varied from 2006 as follows:

Standing order payments down by £2182.07
Pew envelopes and cash up by £701.37
Plate collection down by £58.27

General Funds Income 2007 £39,398.21
 Expenditure 2007 £39,058.87

Restricted Funds Income 2007 £7,611.58
 Expenditure 2007 £4,851.16

Total funds available as at 31.12.07 £6986.90 of which only £1843.77 is unrestricted. This means that although we are in credit we do sail very close to the wind.

Charitable Giving

Redbridge Deanery Youth £94.81
Essex Clergy £99.77
CPV Ltd £76.33 (CYFA camp subsidy)
Christian Aid £76.19 (plus £360.15 collected Christian Aid week)
CEP £440.50 (Redbridge Christian Education project)
British Legion £41.11
Childrens Society £78.26
SAMS £21.78
Compassion £532.00 (Abel & Nathalia)
Stop the Traffik £155.48



Hall Hire

This income plays a large part in our financial welfare and is something that as a church we need to develop. The Hall is available for private one-off events e.g. parties or long term regular hire e.g. dancing lessons. Please do tell your family and friends about us.

Reserves

This is an area which gives concern as I mentioned earlier. We operate on a very tight budget and an unforeseen expense could be very difficult for us to cope with. However thanks to Sue Hartley's efforts we have received a £2000 grant for essential repairs and this will help our funds a lot - well done Sue.

Donation Options

There are a number of ways that you can give to St. Paul's which include:

Weekly plate collection

Pew envelopes

Standing order

One off donations

Please speak to either Chris or myself if you need more information on any of these.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer and donate to us then your donation can be increased by 28% just by signing a declaration. This extra income is important to us and we need to be sure that we are claiming the correct amount, if you are unsure if you qualify then please talk to Chris or me and we'll advise you.

Financial Approach

The PCC has had a different approach towards finance this year. We have relied on God's provision and trusted in Him that if something was meant to be paid then the funds would be there rather than the other way round. Our first priority is always to pay our Family Purse and I believe this will always be the case and then we decide what else to do with the money available to us.

Looking ahead

Due to the PCC constitution I can no longer be a member of the PCC as I have served 5 years and therefore cannot carry on as Treasurer, I have enjoyed my year and feel sure that whoever succeeds me will find the position enjoyable - although it does have its challenging moments! The PCC has decided that this will be the year that we fully investigate the possibility of rebuilding and extending the linkway into a larger area with meeting rooms. If we decide to go ahead it will be a massive project but very exciting too.

Gas Bill

Due to a long-standing muddle we have not been billed for gas since July 2007. We may get a huge bill soon which we will be unable to pay. Please pray!

ELLEN HUNT
Church Treasurer

Electoral Roll 2007-8 Report

We have drawn up a new Electoral Roll for 2007-2008, when everyone had to re-enroll according to the regulations. Last year we had 51 residents and 20 non-residents totalling 71.

For the year ending March 2008 so far we have on roll only 40 residents but 26 non-residents Totalling 66. I shall report on the final figure at the annual meeting in March.



Pauline Sheridan

BUSY BEES

We have had a good year at Busy Bees and God has continued to bless all we do, the staff team is working well together each using their own gifts.

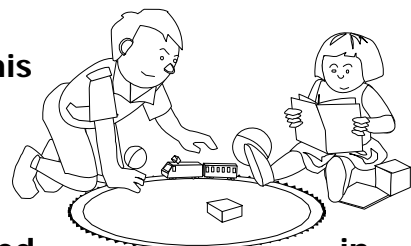
At the beginning of the Autumn term we had an Ofsted inspection. The inspector was very impressed with Busy Bees and told me that we are very close to being outstanding so we were very happy with the outcome and will continue to work towards improving Busy Bees still further.

Once again we finished the winter term with our Nativity in the Church - an opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with the parents/carers. Kathryn Whittaker from the church family joined the staff team last year and has been planning activities around Christian stories from the Bible. This has gone very well & Kathryn has helped the children to make displays for the church, maybe you can guess what stories they have covered if you take a look, I hope Kathryn will continue with these activities in the coming year.

Our overall theme this term is Creation and if you take a look at the large display on the back wall in the hall you will be able to see the story so far and you can follow the story by watching the display.

We have been continuing with the Quality Assurance Scheme - a requirement for receiving Government funding; we have now finished our fifth module and will be starting our next module shortly. We have just received a grant to buy some new equipment which will help to continue to improve Busy Bees.

All the staff will be attending training for the new foundation stage coming in to force in September this year and is a government requirement so it is important that we understand the changes and are ready to put them in place.



I would like to thank everyone who has been involved
Busy Bees this year.

in

I am very fortunate to have such a good team working with me and we will continue with God's help to make Busy Bees even better.

**God bless
Jill**

Mission - Global Outreach

As a church we are concerned that the Good News about Jesus is being shared both in the community and outside. We have supported a number of charities prayerfully and often financially, but our main concern has been our sponsorship of two children living in the third world through Compassion UK.

ABEL is six, lives in Ethiopia and NATALIA who is 12 lives in Brazil. We have had a number of letters from them and it would be great if anyone at St Pauls wanted to write a short note or postcard. They would be delighted to hear from us. We shall be supporting them for some years thereby helping the whole community in which they live. A little goes a long way.

The chosen charity for this year has been 'STOP THE TRAFFIK'. The aim is to stop the abuse of selling people, often children and women, into what amounts to slavery. Unbelievably this is happening on a huge scale, even today.

Throughout the year we respond to appeals from other charities such as Essex Clergy Charity, Redbridge Deanery Youth, and the Children's Society.



Our latest picture of Abel

Through 'Shattered' a sponsored Stay Awake, the Highlanders raised a magnificent £440 for the local Christian Education Project, which sends Neil Poole and Rob Kean into many of our schools for assemblies, lessons and clubs.

Each year we support Christian Aid by doing a collection on Manford Way. This year we shall need help on Sat May 17th so please volunteer if you can. We shall be holding a special QUIZAID POVERTY LUNCH on SUNDAY 18TH MAY after the service. Hopefully we shall have an entertaining lunch time--don't miss it! All proceeds go to Christian AID who are raising awareness of climate change which threatens to affect the poorest communities in the world.

A few people from St Paul's Church have been involved in starting an ecumenical community care project, called LINK2GOD, which aims to give help and support to anyone in need or experiencing distress, despair or loneliness. They have their web site for more information:
www.linktogod.co.uk.

This Lent we have been encouraged to use the Tearfund Carbon Fast or the Count your blessings from Christian Aid, both of which help to make us aware of how we are using the world's resources, so we can all get involved with caring and sharing Jesus with others.



Pauline Sheridan



ST PAUL'S WHEELS'N'SQUEELS

We are a friendly run voluntary parent/carer toddler group – ages 0-5 years. We meet in St Paul's Church Hall, 12.30-2.30pm on Wednesdays in term time but this year we are hoping to go on through the summer holidays. All are welcomed with the knowledge of help if needed to the best of our ability.

We have on average about 15 parents and 22 children. We organise outings, an activity table which includes sticking and painting and last year raised money for the special care baby unit at King Georges Hospital.

I would like to say thank you to all committee members for their hard work and to the parents/carers who regularly step in to help, to Lisselle organising our activity table and a big thank you to the Church for the support they also have given.

Tina, Tracey, Charmaine, Vicki and Amy - The Wheels & Squeels committee

ROCK SOLID REPORT

Rock solid has changed over the past few months, hopefully making the group better for the children. We are now meeting twice on a normal month and 3 times if it's a five week month. This is because we have started "Inspire" which bring both Players, RockSolid and outside children together. To have fun, craft, worship and overall learn more about Jesus, through drama stories etc. Inspire happens once a month, then with the family service it leaves us two weeks.



Which is better for us as a team to work out a rota as we feel we want to be in church for some of the weeks for us to learn, so we can better teach the children.

Pauline and I, head up the team of willing leaders. This year we have welcomed Joanna, who is having a break from climbers, and coming to give us her talents. In craft and leadership. Lisselle has joined us with lovely new ideas. Helene, Gloria and Elizabeth have come onboard as helpers, and the children always like new faces to teach them. Thank you also to Ellen and Charmaine who step in when we need extra hands. Recently we have been learning about Joseph and his technicoloured dream coat. The children have enjoyed singing, drama, quizzes and games about Joseph.

We went to Stubbers again, which was a great day out, but we have not done enough trips recently. So this is something we need to think about as a team. I would like to say a big thank you to Pauline who does all the photocopying and behind the scenes work sorting out the books etc, as well as being a leader. And to everyone on the team for all the hard work you put into rock solid through out the year, and most importantly thank you to all the children; it's a delight to work with you.

Kathryn Whittaker

PLAYERS FOR JESUS

Since the last report there have been a few changes within the group. As you can see we have changed our name from originally being Climbers for Jesus to Players. This was because we extended the age range to 0 – 7 years due to low numbers of children attending.

The activities that the children enjoy are designed to learn through play about Christianity. We get some of our ideas from Christian activity books. We also plan to include some of the teachings from the Sunday services within Players activities.

Now we have access to the garden area we are able to organise physical games for the children to take part in. As well as these activities we always have music playing/singing time, prayers and a Bible story relating to the Christian theme.

During some of the sessions we integrate with RockSolid and lately with Inspire. As leaders we work together to cover and plan the younger groups. Our future plan is to make the sessions always Christian based, safe and fun.

Mandy Belcher

INSPIRE

Mission means reaching out to share Jesus, and work with the 5-11 year olds has been developing to involve more of the children in the nearby schools. Once a month since January we have held a craft Sunday for this age group, now named INSPIRE and we have up to 30 children, meeting during the morning service in the hall. Songs and dramas are then used in the Family services on the 3rd Sundays of the month and all the children encouraged to come along.

Pauline Sheridan

SPRING HARVEST 2007

The theme was 'The Big Story: One People'. In total 38 of us went from St Paul's (and friends). Ricky drove a minibus and it was a safe and comfy journey. I enjoyed seeing different members of the church family relaxing and chatting together. Thinking back I couldn't remember what happened (all the years have become a blur!) so I looked back to the May 2007 edition of 'The Big Question'. Here are a few quotes: 'The Teaching this year was definitely the best ever for me' (Wendy Thorpe); 'I awoke on the last morning thinking of the memories I would keep for years to come: the kiddies worship in the Good Morning Big Top, the amazingly fun Easter egg hunt around the campsite, the ability to shoot your fellow peers with lasers and many more' (Nicky Cleaver); 'Acquaintances have become friends, friends have become good friends and now I have a new best friend' John Brassey.



I think that sums up Spring Harvest very well: we are all different and respond to different parts of the programme uniquely. I have remembered what I enjoyed: it was the Alternative Worship every evening run by the Iona Community. We sang in harmonies and it was very refreshing! Altogether a worthwhile time.

Joanna Cant

SINGING GROUP

Report from the Director of Music

The singing group has blossomed this year and the quality of music improved yet again. It with great pleasure that I find myself leading a band of singers who are supported by percussion and guitar in a way which we all hope enables the congregation to be brought closer to God as we worship Him at our various services.

I am delighted that Pam, Sandra, Betty, Lisselle and Christel with Steve on drums and Dave on guitar enjoy using their particular gifts to the glory of God week by week and our monthly singing practices with the singers and guitar, are in themselves a time of worship as much as they are rehearsals.

These practices now take place at 10.30am on Tuesdays and even if we are feeling a bit jaded before the rehearsal, we all leave with a new spring in our step and a refreshed beat in our hearts.

We shall continue to hold three monthly drumming practices and the team of eager learners continues to increase.

On September 21st there will be a *Churches Together United Celebration* at St Paul's and we are hoping to arrange a large choir and band from the local churches and our Satnav musicians. If you would like to join in, please let me know and I will arrange a special evening rehearsal time. The *Churches Together* Services rotate around the local churches and they invariably appallingly attended so I hope that many of you who love to sing will come and join in to make this one an unforgettable occasion.

If there are any budding musicians or singers who would like to consider adding their talents to our regular weekly worship, please come and talk to me.

Finally, though there is a separate report from the Satnav leadership, I must thank all the musicians and singers who rehearse fortnightly and who lead a praise and worship evenings on the alternate fortnight on Saturdays. I have watched them all blossom and it is very moving to see the way that Satnav encourages youngsters to find Jesus in their lives. All members of the congregation are welcome to join us on a Saturday Satnav evening. I believe it is important that as many adults as possible show these young musicians who are devoted to their calling, their support and it would be an interesting evening to bring a neighbour and their youngsters!



Tom Gough

The Monday Homegroup has continued to meet at our house every other Monday. Over the past year, we have looked at many topics and books of the bible including:

- Cults
- Predestination
- Proverbs
- Angels
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Ezekiel

For the last couple of years, the group has been co-led by Jill James and me. At the end of 2007, Jill announced her decision to step down from leading the group and so I am now in charge (don't panic!). The good news is that we have already had a session led by someone other than me – Maggie Sansom bravely tackled Ezekiel 20 at the beginning of February.

At this point, I feel I must pay tribute to Jill. Jill does so much for the Church in her role as Church Warden and she still leads another homegroup. Jill also runs Busy Bees and is a wonderful Mother and Grandmother to her family (whom we have heard so much about!). Thank you Jill for all that you have done for our group and all that you continue to do for our church.

The homegroup has become a place where people feel comfortable to share their hopes and problems and we always have a time of prayer for anything that is of concern or that we want to give thanks for. Everybody is welcome – see you there.

Rob Whittaker

THURSDAY EVENING HOME GROUP

Our group have met regularly this last year at Tina Miller's home. We enjoy a strong fellowship and we continue to have regular Church Family members and 'fringe' members in the group.

We have been following 'Your Daily Walk' book and started at the beginning of the Old Testament exploring 'key' people and events through the Bible. We have just this last week looked at Moses and the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, so you can see we have a long way to go still before we get to the New Testament!

Jill James and I lead alternately and even though we have people who are at different stages in their walk with God we have good and sometimes lively discussions and everyone contributes to the group. We start with prayer and then read the bible passages and discuss as we go along.

If you do not belong to a Home Group and would like to come along one Thursday to have a 'taster' of our group you would be welcome.

Helen Duke

The summary of the accounts is available on request to Ellen Hunt via the website: