



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CHESTERTON, CAMBRIDGE

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Patricia Abrey, Churchwarden

Geoff Peel, Churchwarden

Administrative information

Church name: St Andrew's, Chesterton.
 Address: Church Street, Chesterton, Cambridge.
 Incumbent: In interregnum.
 Bankers: Barclays Bank Plc, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.
 Solicitors: Messrs Taylor Vinters, Merlin Place, Milton Road, Cambridge.
 Surveyors: January's Chartered Surveyors, York House, Dukes Court,
 54-62 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.
 Independent Examiner: Mr Jim Griffiths, 341 Hills Road, Cambridge.

Trustees of the St Andrew's Church Trust and the St Andrew's Churchyard Charitable Trust are:

Mrs M White	Chairman
Mrs C Dawson	
Mr J Marsh	
Mr D A Dazeley	Secretary

The first named Trust has wide powers to assist in the promotion of Christianity at St Andrew's and the second Trust is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the Churchyard.

Statistics

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Communions									
	Sundays & Holy days	5228	4915	4764	4980	4912	4794	4767	4758
	Home	337	275	321	292	195	228	331	297
	Weekday	420	359	305	345	244	311	169	246
	Total	5985	5549	5390	5617	5351	5333	5267	5301
Baptisms		26	17	23	20	21	6	26	22
Weddings		15	14	6	14	13	6	7	16
Funerals									
	Home	21	22	14	15	16	14	6	16
	Away	32	33	30	16	15	5	10	10
	Interment of ashes								5
Confirmation		3	1	8	1	3	7	0	
First Communion		6	5	5	7	3	6	0	8

P.C.C. MEMBERSHIP 2008*Ex Officio - Ministry Team*

The Rev'd Nicholas Moir
The Rev'd Alasdair Coles
The Rev'd Dorothy Peyton Jones

Ex Officio – Wardens

Mrs Patricia Abrey
Mr Geoffrey Peel

Ex Officio Synods

Mrs Ruth Jones
Mrs Bridget Trump

Ex Officio Music

Mr John Marsh

Co-opted but electable

Mr Christopher Pountain (Music Director)
Mr Simon Peyton Jones (Treasurer)
Mrs Sue Richards (Secretary)

Elected with a three year term.¹

1. Mr Richard Collins (2006)
2. Mrs Pam Lumsden (2006)
3. Miss Jean Sanderson (2006)
4. Dr Lynda Taylor (2006)
5. Mr Nigel Taylor (2006)
6. Mrs Maggie Fernie (2007)
7. Ms Margaret Hiley (2007)
8. Mr George Kendall (2007)
9. Mrs Claire Lea (2007)
10. Mrs Mary Pountain (2007)
11. Miss Gillian Wallace (2007)
12. Dr Mary Allwood (2008)
13. Mr John Reynolds (2008)

¹ Elected Members of PCC A resolution that we should aim to have 15 elected members was duly proposed and carried. (APCM Minutes 2001)

Vicar's report

2008 began with the taking down of the Christmas tree. Mindful of its expense, we decided to recycle it in a novel way: it became a cross that was stationed in the chancel for Lent (alongside a print of Rembrandt's *Return of the Prodigal Son*), moved outside for Holy Week, was lifted high on Good Friday, was crowned and raised in the air for Ascensiontide, and made a return appearance for Holy Cross Day in September. It was at the heart of many of our profound acts of worship during the year and was part of the memorable Easter garden scene – which for the first time occupied much of the chancel (the carpeted area of which is now being used regularly as 'sacred space', with symbols to aid prayer and reflection).

Lent followed the theme of *Coming Home*, following the story of the Prodigal Son. Sunday preaching was supplemented by midweek groups (five met, including 55 participants). These met in homes and in the Hall, and followed material prepared by Andrew Jablonski (alongside Henri Nouwen's book, *The Return of the Prodigal*). Many of the participants joined together with others for Maundy Thursday: we shared a 'Last Supper' in the Hall, including Communion, and an hour's watch in church (the chancel having become the Garden of Gethsemane). Good Friday worship began outside at the cross and included an hour of 'interactive' worship, with prayer stations scattered throughout the church. It snowed on Easter Day but that did not seem to put off large numbers coming for worship.

The church's ministry of healing continued to grow - at evening services, after the Parish Communion on fourth Sundays, and with anointing and the laying on of hands at Pentecost and in St Luke's. The service for Pentecost also included First Communion for eight of our younger members.

Our youth and children's leaders continued to be busy during 2008. There were two residential weekends, one at Halls Green (a Christian outdoor activities' centre) for the youth group and the other at Ringsfield Hall, Suffolk, for the youth choir. There was also an activity day at Halls Green in the October half term for those in the sports club (which has been growing and meets on third Sundays).

Junior Church has welcomed some new leaders and, in September, began a new pattern, with the main Hall being used for pre-school children, including a creche facility: parents with younger children have been welcome either to stay with their children and join in the Christian learning activities or to leave them and join the congregation in church.

At the end of June we enjoyed a parish picnic on the recreation ground with young and old vying for supremacy at rounders. The Coles family joined us for the first time following Alasdair's ordination the previous day.

St Andrew's continued its commitment to Azul Wasi (the Blue House orphanage in Peru) by making a regular donation and by holding fundraising events (such as the sponsored cycle ride in September and the Salsa evening in October). We also give regular support to USPG, WinterComfort, A Rocha and the North Cambridge Schools' Transition Project, and one-off support to other causes (see http://www.standrews-chesterton.org/mission_and_giving.htm). Through giving, gift days and church-organised fundraising, St Andrew's gave nearly £9,000 in 2008 to missions and charities

– supplemented by a good deal of fundraising effort by individual church members for a wide variety of causes.

St Andrew's Hall (see separate report) had another very encouraging year. We have sought to develop the church's involvement with the wider community through special events such as the summer Creation festival (with activities in church, hall and on the rec.), the Hall Stir-up Sunday party (with youth choir concert) and the Christmas Carols round the Tree.

An Alpha Course was launched in the autumn, drawing a group of twenty participants and leaders – and many thanks are due to them, to the hosts (Peter & Margaret Robins) and to all those who contributed meals. The group included both church members and newcomers; all have wanted to continue exploring the faith in one way or another.

2008 has seen the consolidation of the ministry team (that concentrates on ministry and mission) and the staff team (that deals with management and administration). The PCC has engaged in the Mission Action Planning process initiated by the Diocese of Ely, giving over a Saturday morning for this in the autumn (with the aid of a facilitator, Tricia Troughton). Out of this has come an action plan that is being further developed.

The year ended with our Christmas celebrations – and a rather smaller and cheaper tree this time...

Nick Moir

Treasurer's report

Here are some particular points worth noting about income and expenditure for 2008.

- ◇ We made a net surplus on our current account of £3,407 (after correcting for one-off factors; see Section 1.1 of the Notes to the Accounts). Overall this is a good result, much helped by the fact that our Parish Share did not increase in 2008, by an unexpected rebate of £1500 from the diocese, and by £1,500 from the Chimes 200 Club run by Karrie Fuller.
- ◇ We spent an unexpectedly large £11,688 on the Hall, of which about £6,000 was maintenance and £5,000 a direct grant. Given the cheerful state of the Hall finances, in 2009 we will restrict the PCC contribution to maintenance only.
- ◇ We spent £1,200 on fire alarm maintenance in 2008. We have now switched to a new (local) maintenance company.
- ◇ In the light of several substantial insurance events we decided to decrease our excess, which led to an increased premium (£3,500 instead of £3,000 in round figures)
- ◇ We received £6,000 from SNAP, towards the £60,000 they are paying off over 10 years. At the end of 2008 they still owed £36,903.28.

- ◇ During 2008 St Andrew's was responsible for collecting money for the following charities, which was sent direct to the charity and therefore did not pass through the Church accounts:
 - Christian Aid week £3,044.96 (coordinator Margaret Partridge; £3,162 in 2007, £3,065 in 2006, £3,481 in 2005, £2,874 in 2004)
 - Barnardo's: £230 (coordinator Pam Fry; £222 in 2007, £270 in 2006, £301 in 2005, £240 in 2004)
 - Children's Society: £327.01 (coordinator Margaret White; £308.25 in 2007, £333.68 in 2006, £313 in 2005, £319 in 2004)

In addition, we carried out a full review of the church's funds and bank accounts. The PCC approved a number of changes, which resulted in a significant reduction in the number of funds, and of bank accounts. The details are summarised in the Notes to the Accounts, and given in detail in the document "*Proposed reorganisation of funds and accounts*", dated July 2008, which is attached as an Appendix to the accounts.

Fabric and building report

The year started with the work on the tower needed to repair the damage caused in 2006 by lightning. There now seems to be general appreciation that the lighting is again operational. Further work is needed on the weather cock and this will be done as part of other repairs to the tower. There is general weathering which needs to be made good and combining the jobs makes better use of the expensive access gear.

The mechanism for the clock chimes has caused problems during the year and appeared to need professional and fairly expensive work. Fortunately it has, so far, responded to skilled voluntary care.

Break-ins, both attempted and successful, continued into this year. The vestry has been a particular target and more lead was stolen from the roof. The lead has been replaced and, at the time of writing, all is intact. We feel that there has to be a sensible compromise between security and allowing the Church to function as it should. Reasonable precautions should be taken by Church users and this needs to be kept in mind.

Looking forwards the work needed to complete the quinquennial repairs has been defined and is planned to start soon. This work is quite extensive and ranges from the flooring in the north aisle to stonework on the parapet and tower.

The other major project is re-ordering the interior of the Church. This has been given quite a lot of attention and plans are being formulated and discussed. These include changes to the altar, a new kitchen/coffee area, a new toilet and smaller changes to improve the use of space and accessibility.

Many people are involved in this work and provide invaluable help; particular thanks go to John Reynolds who has continued to help and we benefit from his experience in this area.

Geoff Peel

St Andrew's Hall Project

Overview of the Year

Such was the vibrancy of life and activity at the Hall during 2008 that words on a page are unlikely to do it justice. Better, perhaps, the request of a three-year-old – 'Can I go into your shop?' (aka 'the Hall office') – or the snapshot of Rex, our neighbour at St Andrew's House, who watched us accommodate four groups in three parking spaces for days in succession and finally came over to proffer his car park! Aside from recorded group meetings and private events, there has been a constant stream of 'unannounced visits' and eventualities throughout the year, ranging from the discovery and eventual 'homing' of a dead cat to the simple grace and sense of purpose brought by those who have dropped into the office for whatever purpose – those (like the cat's owners) who begin as acquaintances and end up as friends. It is the whole gamut of busi/yness that has made up and fostered the life of the Hall this year, with each individual element making a unique contribution to its overall success.



Usage and Activities

Usage of the main hall and meeting rooms continued to grow considerably during the course of 2008, and we were encouraged by the large number of 're-bookings' made by users who had come to us for the first time during '07: a quantifiable indicator of customer satisfaction! Good relations continued to be built up with all our user groups and individuals meeting on the premises, whatever category they fell into: 'local (ie 'Chesterton') community, wider community, commercial or St Andrew's Church, and also with partner organisations within Chesterton and beyond. As last year, feedback from non-Church users was universally positive, and 'word of mouth' continued to be the most frequently cited means of new hirers hearing about the Hall.

Hall and Church worked together on three main 'whole community' events during the year: 'Create...Re-create...Celebrate!' in June, encompassing activities in the Hall, in the Church and on the Recreation Ground; the 'Stir-Up Sunday Spectacular' marking the Hall's third birthday in November (see 'Vicar's Report'); and the 'Carols Round the Christmas Tree' on the last Sunday before Christmas, based in the Hall's forecourt and main hall. All these events included contributions from groups from the local community – most of them having existing connections with Hall or Church – and were very well attended. The jovial and relaxed atmosphere at all these events was testimony to their contribution to the building up of cheerful community relations between us and our neighbours, and amongst our neighbours themselves. In similar vein, Church Mice Baby and Toddler Group this year formed its own committee, with membership open any adult attending, and agreed upon the gentle structure for meetings necessary for its ever-growing numbers. In conjunction with this, arrangements were made for an increased presence of adults without children to build links with those attending, help ensure children's safety and develop the children's imaginations and creativity: very many thanks to all involved.

Finances

The Hall Accounts for 2008 are presented as part of the Church's Financial Report. In brief, 2008 was the Hall's third year of operation and the third successive year in which we generated a surplus. Rental income more than covered total running costs, and further monies came as a result of donations, successful grant applications and bank interest, together with monies received from St Andrew's Church following a decision by the PCC that the Church make a sizeable contribution towards our ongoing maintenance costs, for which we are most grateful.

The final figures for the year were most heartening - we had budgeted for a loss – and thanks must go to Michael Bond as Hall Treasurer and Simon Peyton Jones, and to Geoffrey Peel in particular for his meticulous work on the accounts, and not least for his tireless commitment to presenting them not only accurately but also in a manner that is comprehensible to the uninitiated. Thank you.

Staffing

2008 saw a number of changes amongst Hall staff and volunteers. Ellen Nisbett, Dorothy Peyton Jones and Peter Hilken stepped down from the St Andrew's Hall Management Committee, with Nigel Taylor succeeding Ellen as Vice Chair: our thanks to all of them, and likewise to Nick for his invaluable role as Chair and to all remaining Committee members and our other volunteers.

Finally, at the end of the year we said a sad and grateful goodbye to Geoffrey Peel in his role as Hall Manager's Assistant. Geoff had been the proverbial - and on occasions all but literal - tower of strength both within and beyond the office: the epitome of patience, good humour and courtesy throughout his time with us. We shall miss his regular presence in the office/'shop', but rest in his assurance that he's not far away should the occasion arise to cry out for help. Three cheers.

Eleanor Whalley 27 February 2009