

The Parish of **ALVESTON**



Annual Report 2008

THE PARISH OF ALVESTON ST. JAMES WITH
ST. PETER'S MANOR RD. STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

MINISTRY TEAM

The Rev'd Canon Richard E. Williams	Vicar	292777
The Rev'd Mary Kent	Curate	488150
Canon Lisle W. T. Sharp	Reader	293019

Music

Mrs. Barbara Lewis	Organist	01676 534148
Mrs. Alex Williams	Director of Music	292777

Bell Tower

Mr. Leslie Allman	Captain	841505
Mr. Derek Hancox	Tower Keeper	295040
Mr. Stephen Kaye	Secretary	07867523065
Mrs. Judith Baxter	Treasurer	

Church Cleaning

Mrs. Jenny Cobley	Co-ordinator	293863
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Church Flowers

Mrs. Jean Abbey	Co-ordinator	266447
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Southbank Club

Mrs. Erica Johnston	Leader	840802
Mrs. Alex Williams	Helper	292777
Mrs. Trudi Rainsberry	Helper	299926
Mrs. Traci Overs	Helper	

Blue Fish Youth Group

Mrs. Alex Williams	Leader	292777
Dr. Jacqui Scrimshire	Leader	267682
Mr. Gareth Millard	Leader	299291
Ms. Sarah Cobley	Leader	
Ms. Alex Johnston	Leader	

Southbank Link

The Vicar	Editor	292777
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St. Peter's Manor Road

Mrs. Juliette Dale	Caretaker	294576
Dr. David Derbyshire	Bookings	267682

Stewardship

Mr. Rob Cobley	Recorder	293863
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VICAR'S PREFACE

- ◆ 2008 has been an interesting year for the diocese of Coventry of which we are part. In December 2007 we said goodbye to Colin Bennetts who had been our diocesan bishop for nearly 10 years. The farewell service in the Cathedral was a very moving occasion ending with Bp. Colin placing his crook, mitre and cope on the High Altar and walking down to the back of the Cathedral just in his cassock, accompanied by his wife, Veronica. and
- ◆ The search for a new bishop had already begun earlier in the year and when a suitable candidate was found I was involved, as a Canon of the Cathedral in the ancient, and rather pointless, ceremony of electing the new bishop in May. The Diocesan Registrar first reads out a document, unchanged since the days of Elizabeth I, giving us permission to elect a bishop. Then he reads out another Elizabethan document telling us who to elect! As a result, in November, we welcomed The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Christopher Cocksworth as the ninth Bishop of the revived see of Coventry.
- ◆ Closer to home, in the parish, we drew up plans for re-wiring and lighting St. James' Church. These have taken a long time to finalise and final permission in the form of a Faculty from the diocese to undertake the work is still awaited. At St. Peter's Faculties were applied for to replace the heating with a new gas fired 'wet' system. This has been installed and has improved the building as well as saving money! The new lighting there has also been installed and the main hall redecorated.
- ◆ Over the year attendance figures, particularly at the 10.30am service at St. James' have fallen slightly. The 8.00am has attracted some new 'regulars' so their numbers are up slightly, and St. Peter's is thriving with a number of new regular worshippers swelling the numbers on some Sundays into the 30's. But numbers have dropped away at 10.30, particularly on Sundays which are not 'all-age' services. This is something we will need to look at in the coming year.
- ◆ At the end of June we were joined by Mary Kent after her ordination to the diaconate as she began her training with us in parish ministry. Mary has settled in well and takes her share of preaching and pastoral work. We look forward now to her priesting on July 4th and first Eucharist after which she can begin to take a fuller part in the services.
- ◆ There is much still to do to fulfil those priorities of worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities. The PCC have embarked on a journey which will hopefully make us more effective in all of these areas and enable us to reach out to the many that still do not cross our threshold, even once a year. The challenge is still there for all of us to work for the future of the Church and to make our Church an inclusive and welcoming Church that strangers feel glad to come in to.

Richard Williams, Vicar.

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Alveston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Richard Williams, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, together with the maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings of Saint James and Saint Peter's, and the old church in Mill Lane. The former Parish Hall in Tiddington, now known as the Tiddington Community Centre is leased to a Trust.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Reverend Canon Richard E. Williams	<i>Chairman</i>
<i>(Curate)</i>	The Rev'd Mary Kent	<i>from July 2009)</i>
<i>Wardens</i>	Mr. Rob Cobley	
	Mr. David Johnston	
<i>Pro-Wardens</i>	Mrs. Juliette Dale	(St.Peter's)
	Mrs. Ann Denby	(St.Peter's)
	Mr. Peter Woodhams	(St.James')
	Mr. David Oram	(St.James')
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Mr. Lisle Sharp	<i>Hon. Sec. to the PCC</i>
	Mr. Peter Woodhams	
	Mr. David Johnston	
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs. Pam Duncan	
	Dr. David Derbyshire	<i>Hon. Treasurer to the PCC</i>
	Mrs. Pat Fox	
	Mr. Peter Garner	
	Mr. Martin Grubb	
	Mr. John Livingston	
	Mr. Anthony Williams	

Meetings of the PCC

The PCC has met eight times since the last Annual Meeting. A report from the Secretary follows.

Church Attendance

Sunday morning attendance over 2008 saw a slight decline, the 2007 figure was 110, in 2008 this was closer to 100.

Review of the Year

A report of the year's events can be found in the reports, which follow.

Statement of PCC Responsibilities

The PCC is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Church and of its results for that period. In preparing those financial statements the PCC is required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Church can continue to meet its financial obligations.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the PCC. The Reverend Canon Richard E. Williams (Chairman) March 2009.

From the Registers

Information from the Registers of Services for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms in 2007

FUNERALS

17 Funerals took place in Church
11 Funerals were also taken at Crematoria

WEDDINGS

9 Weddings took place at St. James'

BAPTISMS

8 children & 1 adult were welcomed into the Church through the waters of Baptism

St. Peter's, Manor Road

The congregation at the 9.15am service on Sundays has welcomed some new additions over the year and numbers attending are keeping up well. It is a friendly congregation in a 'friendly' building which has had a number of improvements made to it over the year. New heating was installed in the summer and new lighting and redecoration took place recently. The building is now very warm and well lit, the heating can be programmed to suit the groups using the building at various times of the day, and is proving to be substantially cheaper than the old system.

The flower rota had been organised for us since 2001 by Rosemary Bradley, but early in the year Rosemary announced that she would be moving to Leamington and would no longer be able to do the job. Sadly, at the end of October, before she was able to enjoy her new home, Rosemary died. We were sorry to lose her to Leamington but even more sorry to have to say goodbye at her funeral at St. Peter's on November 10th.

We are very grateful to Muriel Brown for offering to take over organising the flower rota and we are never without a lovely arrangement done by different members of the congregation each week. The local community continue to use the church for various activities during the week including - Kumon Maths, Yoga, National Trust, W.I., Tots Tune, Rhythm Time and Second Thoughts Drama Group.

Many thanks to all in the congregation who help each week with the smooth running of our little mission church and keep it looking smart and tidy, inside and out.

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT - 2009

Following last year's Revision the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Alveston St James with St Peter's Manor Road showed a total membership of 144.

In this year's Revision 9 names have been removed and 7 applications for membership have been approved by the Parochial Church Council. We therefore now have a total membership of 142; 108 are resident within the parish and 34 are non-resident.

Betty Fox

PARISH OF ALVESTON, ST. JAMES' with ST.PETER'S

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - 6th April 2008

Before the Meeting copies of the Annual Report and the Examined Financial Accounts were made available to those present and the main points of each Report were shown via a Power-Point presentation. The Minutes below give a resume of the Statutory Reports. In the Eucharist preceding the APCM in lieu of a Sermon the Vicar presented his Preface to the Annual Report.

Present : The Vicar and 36 parishioners.

VESTRY MEETING (For the election of Churchwardens and appointment of Pro-Wardens.) Nominations in writing had been received for those named below, and in the absence of any other nominations, they were duly elected to serve for the year 2008-2009 as Churchwardens of this parish :

Mr. Rob Cobley
Mr. David Johnston

The following were then appointed to serve as Pro-Wardens for 2008-2009 :

St. James' : Mr. David Oram and Mr. Peter Woodhams
St. Peter's : Mrs. Juliette Dale and Mrs. Ann Denby

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Minutes of the APCM of 25th March 2007** : These had been printed in the Annual Report for 2007 and were duly approved and signed as a true and correct record.
2. **Matters Arising** : None
3. **Statutory Reports** :
 - A. **Electoral Roll** : During the last twelve months three names had been removed and eight applications were approved. The membership now stands at 144 : 105 are residents within the parish and 39 non-resident.
 - B. **Hon. Secretary's Report** : Canon Lisle Sharp had said that the past year had been a busy and interesting one. The main issues had been the completion of the transfer of the Church Hall, under the Albemarle Scheme to the Tiddington Community Trustees, the completion of the work at the Old Church and the proposed work at St. James' as a result of the most generous gift of the Pieta for the Lady Chapel. The PCC had approved a new heating system for St. Peter's and was most appreciative of the grant of £5,000 from the Town Trust towards this. The Parish Share continued to cause some concern, but by increasing our contribution by 3% this coming year it would mean that the Fosse Deanery could clear its deficit. Social events continued to be successful as did the Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The PCC was delighted with the continuing development of the choir and was most grateful for the splendid work of Alex and Barbara. The Parish was setting-up a web-site and this would assist in improving information circulation and the PCC was most grateful to Rob Cobley for his work on this.
 - C. **Hon. Treasurer's Report** : Dr. David Derbyshire said that though there was a deficit on the year of some £10,000, the parish remained solvent. He did, however, strongly urge that a "Friends of Alveston Church" charitable group be set up to encourage contributions from non-churchgoers towards the upkeep and maintenance of the building. Major expenditure continued to be the Parish Share, but in the course of the last year the PCC paid the balance (£11,600) of the grant to the TCC following the signing of the formal lease in July. Energy prices were a concern and there had been a large increase in the costs for St. Peter's. The major source of regular income remains Bank Standing Orders and this was the easiest and most secure form of giving. The collection plate and planned giving envelopes were presented at the altar, and the Standing Orders were offered by means of the card. £26,000 had been received in bequests and £7,600 in grants from the Town Trust for a variety of projects.

The PCC was fortunate in owning substantial assets and in the course of the year £100,000 had been transferred to a dedicated charitable Unit Trust run by M & G. this had reduced the costs of ownership and also the risk and potential reward.

Likely future expenditure would be work on the Lady Chapel (£9,000) and on curing the damp in the north-west corner of St. James'. As a result of the recent electrical inspection the cost of replacing wiring and installing new lighting was about £35,000 to £40,000. The new heating at St. Peter's was likely to be about £14,000. The tower of St. James' continues to cause concern and repairs to the stonework were likely to cost at least £30,000.

Income continued to be much less than expenditure and major refurbishment items were extra. Establishment of "Friends of Alveston Church was to be seen as an urgent priority.

Following the Report the Examined Accounts were then presented and the Hon. Treasurer congratulated on his coping with the complications resulting from the changes consequent in our income exceeding £100,000 in accordance with the new Charity regulations.

The Examined Accounts were then approved nem.con. by the meeting and the Hon. Treasurer thanked, by acclamation, for his work.

D. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments :

Mr. R.Cobley reported that all the items were in good condition and that there had been no disposals in the past twelve months. Faculties had been obtained for the Pieta, the bench in the churchyard, the notice –board and the carpet in the chancel. Urgent work was required on the gutters and downpipes at St. James'. An Electrical Survey had taken place and also an inspection of the tower. He thanked Mr. Doug Eburah, the architect, for his work on the Lady Chapel where work would commence on April 7th. Some £80,000 had now been spent on the Community Centre which was on a 35 year lease from the PCC and it was now proving a real centre for village activities. (The meeting then recorded its thanks to Rob Cobley and his team for their magnificent work.)

The Old Church reflected the great achievements by the Friends of the Old Church.

The volunteers who maintained the Churchyard were sincerely thanked for their work and the state of the Churchyard had elicited much favourable comment from visitors.

St. Peter's was much used by local organisations and it was hoped that the new heating system would be more efficient and economical.

E. Fosse Deanery Report : The Synod had met only twice and the main business in November had been on Diocesan Resources and in February on the Diocesan links with Kaduna, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Continued debate about the equitable apportioning of the Parish Share throughout the Deanery had not yet resolved the problem.

4. Election to Fosse Deanery Synod :

The parish is entitled to three members who serve for three years.

The following were then proposed and duly elected :

. Canon Lisle Sharp
Mr. David Johnston
Mr. Peter Woodhams.

5. Election of three members of the PCC :

The following were duly elected to serve for three years :

Mr. Howard Lucas (Prop. Mrs. P.Fox; sec. Dr. D. Derbyshire
Mr. Peter Garner (Prop. Mr. J.Livingston; sec. Mrs. J.Cobley)
Dr. David Derbyshire (Prop. Mr. M.Grubb; sec. Mrs. A.Denby)

6. Appointment of Sidespersons :

The meeting agreed to the following serving in this capacity :

- 1st Sunday : Mr. J. and Mrs. S. Bladon
- 2nd Sunday : Mr. P and Mrs. M. Woodhams
- 3rd Sunday : Mrs. J. Sharp and Mrs. J. Cobley
- 4th Sunday : Mrs. P. Duncan and Mr. P. Garner
- 5th Sunday : Mr. J and Mrs. R. Livingston

Mrs. J. Browning, Mrs. B. Cox and Mr. D. Oram would assist where necessary.

At 8.00 a.m. the duties would be shared by Mr. J. Bedford and Mr. R. Dyer

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts :

The meeting recorded its thanks and appreciation to Rosemary Riley for her work over the past years in this capacity. However, for reasons of pressure of work she would not be able to continue in this role. It was agreed that the matter of a replacement be considered at the first meeting of the new PCC in May.

8. Reports from Parish Groups :

These had been included in the Annual Report – Southbank Club, Friends of the Old Church, Social Team, Blue Fish, Worship Group and the Choir. They made very interesting reading and reflected on the great amount of church-related activities in the parish.

9. Any Other Business :

- a) **SYCP** : Having been in existence for the past four years, this organisation would be disbanded as from 31st July following the withdrawal of the Town Trust grant. It had stimulated a number of successful ventures and in this parish especially Blue Fish which would not be affected by the decision.
- b) Dates for PCC meetings for the coming year were then given.

The Vicar then thanked those responsible for producing the Annual Report and for the excellent visual presentation.

A closing prayer was then said and the meeting formally closed at 12.45 p.m.

PCC HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC has met on eight occasions during the year and highlights have been the welcoming of Rev. Mary Kent to her curacy with us for the next three years, the placement of the generous gift of the pieta in the Lady Chapel and the restoration of that area. The pieta and will be dedicated by the Bishop of Coventry on Sunday May 17th when we shall also be celebrating the 170th anniversary of the dedication of the church of St. James'.

A major issue facing the PCC has been the problems associated with the electrics at St. James'. Thanks to the efforts of the Churchwardens and the helpful demonstrations by A.J. Smith's of Gloucester, the DAC have now approved the proposed work and a Faculty to allow it to commence should be shortly forthcoming. The heating and lighting of St. Peter's have also been replaced, thanks to generous grants from the Town Trust and the hard work of Dr. David Derbyshire and there is now a very welcoming ambience about the building.

Another serious problem is the state of the tower of St. James'. Professional advice is being sought about the crumbling stonework and it has been necessary to take preventative measures to try to protect the entrance from falling stones. The windows also require some attention, and two were damaged as the result of vandalism.

The PCC was most grateful that Mrs. Erica Johnston agreed to undertake the role of Parish Child Protection Officer and for her work in ensuring that where necessary CRB clearance has been obtained.

The PCC has given its full support to the institution of an open altar policy and this has been incorporated in the new Service Books.

The continued improvements at the Old Church and the TCC have been commended with thanks to all involved, and the pleasing increase in attendance at St. Peter's has been noted.

Though the Stratford Churches' Youth Project has ceased to function, there has been no effect on Blue Fish which the PCC encourages and to which it is grateful for the organisation of the Advent Supper. The Social Group under the leadership of Mr. Martin Grubb have organised a series of events which have brought most welcome contributions to our finances.

The choir continues to make a most appreciated contribution to our worship and the introduction of an Advent Carol Service proved most successful, as did Christingle and the traditional Carol Service. It is pleasing that there is an increase in the number of adults joining the choir and the PCC wishes to place on record its admiration of the work of Alex , Barbara and their assistants in maintaining such a high standard of music.

The PCC has approved the combination of "Southbank Link" with "TCC News", and the recent colour editions had elicited much favourable comment. The Council has also supported the new style "Southbank Club" with its monthly Activities Morning.

The church received visits from "Divine Inspiration" – an organisation set up to suggest how churches could be more welcoming and "sell" themselves more. Mr. Peter Woodhams has been co-ordinator and is following up on the interesting and stimulating ideas suggested.

An Away Day has been arranged for the PCC when we will try to find ways of encouraging more participation in the church and improve our outreach.

As a matter of some urgency in view of the structural work needed on St. James' the PCC has given its unanimous support for the establishment of "Friends of St. James'" and is actively pursuing persons who might be willing to take a lead in such an organisation whose main aim would be to ensure funding for the upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Mr. R.Cobley provides regular press releases on our activities and this has certainly encouraged more to attend, especially the "special" services.

The PCC continues to be most appreciative of the leadership of Richard, Alex and the Churchwardens and Pro-Wardens and the leaders of the various Parish Groups.

L.W.T.Sharp (Hon. Sec.)

FOSSE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2008 –2009

The Synod has met on three occasions during the year. In June 2008 the meeting was held at Shottery where Synod officers and members of the Pastoral Committee were elected. The main agenda item was a presentation by Rev. Mark Bratton on the proposed Anglican Covenant. This was a very complicated and , in parts, controversial document, which, if approved, would have a profound effect on the worldwide Anglican Communion. The matter of the Parish Share was again discussed and a meeting arranged with Parish Treasurers to try to come to some common agreement. Details were also given of the actual costs of Parochial Ministry as a guide to possible solutions. The meeting also welcomed Rev. David Banbury ,the newly appointed Director of Mission and Faith Development at Holy Trinity and Rev. Alan Wheale, House-for- Duty priest in the Barford benefice.

Parish Treasurers were invited to the October meeting held at the TCC in Tiddington. Once again it was the matter of the Parish Share which dominated the agenda. Views were expressed from the floor, but there was no general consensus how we should move forward and like the fallen angels in "Paradise Lost" we "found no end in wandering mazes lost" ! The Synod welcomed Rev. Mary Kent as the newly installed curate at Alveston, but the meeting itself was the shortest on record for the Deanery.

The most recent meeting was on February 4th at Barford where attendance was somewhat reduced due to adverse weather conditions. Dr. Kate Distin, a 0.5 post, was welcomed as the Deanery Co-ordinator for Youth, being based at Fenny Compton. A further report was given on the on-going discussions on both the Diocesan and Deanery plans. The Deanery was gathering data from the parishes, including copies of recent Annual Accounts, and was moving towards acceptance of the Diocesan view that parishes should be responsible for meeting the clergy stipend. There followed a discussion with Rev. Dr. John Hall, Director for Social Responsibility, who sought the views of the meeting on what should be prioritised. After group discussions it was the topic of Social Isolation that emerged as the main issue, followed by concerns about youth, provision of affordable housing and the effects of the recession.

The new Bishop of Coventry had visited the eastern "cluster" and met all the Churchwardens of the Deanery at Shotton. The Archdeacon of Warwick would be retiring and there would be a Farewell Service at Holy Trinity on May 17th at 3.00 p.m.. The annual Archdeacon's Visitation would, for this year, be conducted by the Bishop at the Cathedral on June 4th.

The Synod continues to receive regular reports on General and Diocesan Synods and its next meeting would be at Walton on June 3rd.

LWTS

Blue Fish 2008

The youth group is run by members of the congregation for the benefit of young people living in Tiddington and Alveston or having a particular connection with the church. The current leaders are Gareth Millard, Sarah Cobley, Alex Johnston, Jacqui Scrimshire and Alex Williams. We meet every other week on a Sunday evening in the Tiddington community centre. During 2008 we enjoyed our usual mix of activities including cooking, sports, trips out and the ever popular Barge weekend. We have a steady number of young people, the older teenagers have moved on or away and we have had some new younger members who have now found their feet. A typical meeting has between 15 and 20 young people.

Blue Fish seeks to offer space for young people to relax and have fun, get to know new people and have the support of leaders from our church family.

THE CHOIR!

Another year, a lot more singing and some great fun along the way. 2008 saw the choir really mature and get to grips with 4 part harmony, Alex stopped feeling quite so scared about expecting the basses and tenors to manage their harmonies and the results have been uplifting. The altos have grown in number with some of the senior girls joining their ranks and the sopranos have continued to delight us, with the senior girls maturing and doing more singing and less chatting and giggling (more than can be said for some of the adults).

The regular Sunday morning services have been enhanced by a new regime and commitment from the senior and adult choir and we've learnt a new setting of the eucharist which seems to be growing on most people in the congregation and choir after a rather bumpy start!

The Easter music was one of our highlights and we also enjoyed a workshop with David Ogden when we picked up some new pieces which we have gone on to perform. James Lucas was awarded the Arthur Walton medal in recognition of his service to the choir, Anna Harkin and Jessica Young were

appointed as head choristers and we said thank you to Anthony Williams as he headed off to university.

The juniors are working hard and are doing well at leading the music in All Age services. They are developing a lovely sound and were the highlight for many at the Christmas Carol service. This was described as our 'best ever' and even Alex managed to enjoy it, the Christingle followed rapidly and was once again, a hit.

We have been fortunate to have Barbara's tireless support as organist and are grateful for her flexibility and willingness to respond to those last minute changes! And now a note from one of our senior girls.....

'we enjoyed a hectic Christmas period and were glad of the break that January and February brought after which we were ready to get back into the swing of things. We all work hard to learn the brilliant music that we share with you and hope that the pieces sound as good as they do in the practise (! -editor) although it's hard work we also manage to have a laugh along the way and enjoy it when practise pays off and the singing goes well'

The Worship Group

The worship group meets to discuss ways of supporting and developing the spiritual life of our church. Involved in the group are Julia Lucas, Sarah Coton, Jenny Cobley, Pam Duncan, Hilary Mills Baker and Alex Williams.

During 2008 we have discussed the All Age services and looked at ways of keeping these shorter and more accessible.

The monthly reflective service has now become well established and is a space for reflection, quiet and prayer. It offers an opportunity to think about our own lives, our community and the world.

The group have continued their discussions with the vicar about baptism with a trial run of baptisms outside of the Eucharist. This was felt to be less effective and so has not been continued. We ordered more teddy bears – they have been popular -and effective in the long term we hope!

The prayer corner has been developed further although not yet exactly as we would like and we hope to find a better way of displaying resources. We have bought lent and advent resources which seem to be gladly received. The group organised and ran a lent group which was well attended. Tea and Chat which was first suggested by the worship group but is really a social point of contact for people is running well but would welcome more volunteers to 'brew up'!

The worship group is open to suggestions for new ideas to discuss or develop. Some new members would be a good way of keeping our worship, outreach and spiritual nurture fresh and relevant.

SOUTHBANK CLUB

Over the past twelve months Southbank has continued to operate with varying numbers, sometimes 2 children and sometimes 12! In September we introduced Southbank Sunday Club, a monthly meeting in the upper room running from 10.15-11.45. The aim of this was to make the session longer and try to give it more of a "Club" appeal which would attract children from the school and the village. Although we have picked up a couple of extra children the monthly numbers still vary and we will soon be working in conjunction with the new Diocese Children's Worker in an effort to evaluate and improve our service for the children in the Parish.

In December we received £500 from Stratford Town Trust to purchase new furniture and equipment to make the upper room and Church children's area more inviting. At the time of writing we are awaiting delivery of new mats/bookcases and resources. Our thanks go to Stratford Town Trust for their generous grant.

We are still lucky enough to have four regular leaders and 2 helpers. Their help is very much appreciated as it enables the club to run smoothly without too much input from any one person.

We will continue to try to find ways of engaging young children and their families and if you would like to help or have any ideas please contact

Erica Johnston 01789 840402 or email ericajohnston@btconnect.com

ALVESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 29th March 2009

VESTRY MEETING :

Election of Churchwardens for 2009/2010

Election of Pro-Wardens for 2009/2010

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING :

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the APCM of 2008 (for approval)**
- 2. Any Matters Arising from those Minutes**
- 3. Statutory Reports :**
 - a) Electoral Roll**
 - b) PCC Hon. Secretary**
 - c) Hon. Treasurer and Presentation of Annual Accounts**
 - d) Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments.**
 - e) Fosse Deanery Report.**
- 4. Election to the PCC - Three members.**
- 5. Appointment of Sidespersons**
- 6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts.**
- 7. Reports from Parish Groups.**

LWTS (Hon. Sec. PCC)

LWTS Hon. Secretary

Honorary Treasurer's Report to APCM 2008

The financial year (1st January 2008 – 31st December 2008) upon which I report has been tumultuous across the world. Your church has emerged from this tumult battered, bruised and a little damaged, but with sufficient strength and resolution to continue God's work.

Overall, our income has managed to support the continuation of our Church's day to day running. Our general income has been maintained.

Planned giving continues to be the corner stone of our financial well being. We received £48553 (£44687-2007) in planned giving (including *circa* £12500 as an income tax refund). Loose collections amounted to a further £6330 (£6610 – 2007).

Legacies provide a helpful prop to our incoming resources. These were £7028 (£26000 – 2007). Whilst the PCC appreciates the inclusion in the will of parishioners, it mourns their passing.

Social events raised a gross amount of £5863 (£4308 – 2007). The PCC and the congregation are grateful to Martin Grubb and his Social Committee for ingenious, enjoyable (and profitable) events which require much hard work and heartache.

Investment Income. Whilst our income of £16733 (£15810 – 2007) held up well, the prospects for 2009 are less rosy.

The PCC did not lose any cash balances to the problems with banks such as IceSave. The PCC (unlike individuals) is not protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Our major Cash Deposits are held in the Church Of England Deposit Fund administered on behalf of the Church Commissioners by CCLA. We keep some money in a Barclays' Current and Deposit Account. Additionally, we have some stock market linked investments held in Unit Trusts. On revaluation at the year end, they had decreased in value by £42876 (a fall of 26% compared with 31% fall in the FTSE 100 share index). The interest rate payable by CofE Deposit Fund is 2% (8th Feb 2009 *cf* 3.5% 30th November and 5.9% a year ago). We received £8844 in 2007. The likelihood is of a reduction of income of more than £6000 over the year. Added to this reduction is a likely reduction in income from our stockmarket linked Unit trust, which provided £7100 in 2008.

Taken in the round, I expect a reduction of **Investment Income** in the region of £10,000, to about £6000 in 2009.

St Peter's Mission. There has been a steady demand for the hire of St Peters Mission. Charging for the hall has been more robust than heretofore. £6524 (£3544 – 2007) was raised as income. Additionally the cost of heating has reduced considerably following replacement of the electric storage heaters by a gas heated "wet" system. Last winter, the electricity bill for St Peter's was about £1600, and a comparable period this year will be about £60 (plus About £450 for the gas).

Expenditure – although notionally less than income for last year, this does not represent a consistent position. Our greatest expenditure continues to be the Parish Share, at £56000. I talked last year about the mechanism involved in this, and the benefits received by the Church. In general terms day to day expenditure did not vary much from last year.

We have, though, undertaken a couple of major projects in the last year. The Pieta was installed in the newly refurbished Lady Chapel. The refurbishment was largely met out of capital. The installation of the new heating at St Peter's cost (at £13200) more than budgeted (£10000). We were grateful to have received a grant of £5000 from the Town Trust towards this – the remainder being drawn from capital. Altogether our major building works cost just over £20000.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008 set out on pages three to eight.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ballard Dale Syree Watson LLP
Oakmoore Court
Kingswood Road
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 0QH

Date:

ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Not es	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2008 Total funds £	2007 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		72,314	-	72,314	107,943
Activities for generating funds	2	5,952	-	5,952	4,308
Investment income	3	16,991	66	17,057	15,810
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Church activities		<u>16,095</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,095</u>	<u>8,451</u>
Total incoming resources		111,352	66	111,418	136,512
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income		2,548	-	2,548	4,291
Investment management costs	4	-	-	-	487
Charitable activities					
Church activities		114,402	-	114,402	92,556
Governance costs		<u>1,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,093</u>	<u>-</u>
Total resources expended		118,043	-	118,043	97,334
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES					
		(6,691)	66	(6,625)	39,178
Other recognised gains/losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets		<u>(42,973)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(42,973)</u>	<u>(1,703)</u>
Net movement in funds		(49,664)	66	(49,598)	37,475
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		472,739	2,290	475,029	437,554
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>423,075</u>	<u>2,356</u>	<u>425,431</u>	<u>475,029</u>

ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Not es	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2008 Total funds £	2007 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	144,062	-	144,062	131,677
Investments	7	<u>119,177</u>	-	<u>119,177</u>	<u>162,150</u>
		263,239	-	263,239	293,827
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	8	5,077	-	5,077	4,603
Cash at bank	9	<u>161,715</u>	<u>2,356</u>	<u>164,071</u>	<u>184,731</u>
		166,792	2,356	169,148	189,334
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(6,956)	-	(6,956)	(8,132)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>159,836</u>	<u>2,356</u>	<u>162,192</u>	<u>181,202</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>423,075</u>	<u>2,356</u>	<u>425,431</u>	475,029
NET ASSETS		<u>423,075</u>	<u>2,356</u>	<u>425,431</u>	<u>475,029</u>
FUNDS					
	1				
	1				
Unrestricted funds				423,075	472,739
Restricted funds				<u>2,356</u>	<u>2,290</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>425,431</u>	<u>475,029</u>

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Council member

**ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP 2005.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the PCC's inventory, which can be inspected. For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	2008	2007
	£	£
Social events	3,355	2,674
Parish fêtes	<u>2,597</u>	<u>1,634</u>
	<u>5,952</u>	<u>4,308</u>

ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2008	2007
	£	£
Dividends and interest	<u>17,057</u>	<u>15,810</u>

4. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	2008	2007
	£	£
Investment management charges	<u>-</u>	<u>487</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2008 nor for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2008 nor for the year ended 31 December 2007.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property	Pieta	Totals
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 January 2008	109,295	22,382	131,677
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>12,385</u>	<u>12,385</u>
At 31 December 2008	<u>109,295</u>	<u>34,767</u>	<u>144,062</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2008	<u>109,295</u>	<u>34,767</u>	<u>144,062</u>
At 31 December 2007	<u>109,295</u>	<u>22,382</u>	<u>131,677</u>

No depreciation has been charged on the freehold property as the residual value of the land is greater than the cost included in the accounts.

No depreciation has been charged on the Pieta statue as it is a work of art with a long life and is expected to appreciate in value.

Additions this year include the donation of a marble plinth and the costs involved in the installation of the statue.

ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

7. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2008	162,150
Revaluations	<u>(42,973)</u>
At 31 December 2008	<u>119,177</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2008	<u>119,177</u>
At 31 December 2007	<u>162,150</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2008 £	2007 £
Other debtors	50	-
Prepayments	2,517	2,425
Gift aid tax recoverable	<u>2,510</u>	<u>2,178</u>
	<u>5,077</u>	<u>4,603</u>

9. CASH AT BANK

	General fund £	Bells fund £	R Noise Memorial fund £
Cash at bank and in hand	904	-	-
Short term deposits	<u>160,811</u>	<u>1,236</u>	<u>1,056</u>
	<u>161,715</u>	<u>1,236</u>	<u>1,056</u>

	W Woods Memorial fund £	2008 Total funds £	2007 Total funds £
Cash at bank and in hand	-	904	3,044
Short term deposits	<u>64</u>	<u>163,167</u>	<u>181,687</u>
	<u>64</u>	<u>164,071</u>	<u>184,731</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2008 £	2007 £
Charity donation commitment	3,994	3,281
Other creditors	2,962	4,773
Church Hall	-	78
	<u>6,956</u>	<u>8,132</u>

ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.08 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.08 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	472,739	(49,664)	423,075
Restricted funds			
Bells fund	1,170	66	1,236
R Noise Memorial fund	1,056	-	1,056
W Woods Memorial fund	64	-	64
	<u>2,290</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>2,356</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>475,029</u></u>	<u><u>(49,598)</u></u>	<u><u>425,431</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	111,352	(118,043)	(42,973)	(49,664)
Restricted funds				
Bells fund	66	-	-	66
	<u>111,418</u>	<u>(118,043)</u>	<u>(42,973)</u>	<u>(49,598)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>111,418</u></u>	<u><u>(118,043)</u></u>	<u><u>(42,973)</u></u>	<u><u>(49,598)</u></u>

**ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	2008	2007
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Planned giving	36,061	33,145
Gift aid tax recoverable	12,492	11,381
Collections	6,330	6,610
Legacies	7,028	26,000
Grants and donations	2,403	8,425
Statue	8,000	<u>22,382</u>
	72,314	107,943
Activities for generating funds		
Social events	3,355	2,674
Parish fêtes	2,597	<u>1,634</u>
	5,952	4,308
Investment income		
Dividends and interest	17,057	15,810
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Hire of St. Peter's	6,524	3,544
Fees and other income	9,571	<u>4,907</u>
	16,095	8,451
Total incoming resources	111,418	136,512
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Fête and social event costs	2,548	4,291
Investment management costs		
Investment management charges	-	487
Charitable activities		
Charitable giving	8,086	4,174
Parish share	56,000	55,419
Ministry costs	6,214	6,774
Church running expenses	9,881	6,978
Costs of services	2,802	2,602
Property maintenance	23,637	6,582
St Peter's running costs	2,068	2,918
Parish Hall transfer costs	-	1,117
South Bank Club/Link	250	266
Choir and bellringers	2,956	3,532
Printing and stationery	2,508	<u>2,194</u>
	114,402	92,556

ST. JAMES' ALVESTON PCC
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	2008 £	2007 £
Governance costs		
Accountancy	<u>1,093</u>	-
Total resources expended	<u>118,043</u>	<u>97,334</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses	(6,625)	39,178
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/losses on fixed asset investments	-	1,778
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>(6,625)</u>	<u>40,956</u>

Churchwardens' Report for 2008

St James, Alveston and the Old Church, Alveston

1.0 Goods and Chattels

- 1.1 All inventory items were found to be present and correct.
- 1.2 No items were disposed of during the year.
- 1.3 Faculties were requested during the year included those for the replacement of the Electrics at St James and for new Lighting and Heating at St Peter's. That for St Peter's has been approved and worked commenced and has been completed in the first quarter 2009. The faculty for the rewiring and new lighting at St James is progressing and we expect to receive final approval any day now. This report excludes those required for the refurbishment of The Old Church.

2.0 Buildings

- 2.1 During 2008 the Pieta was installed in the Lady Chapel and substantial repair and a full redecoration of the Lady Chapel was completed over a seven week period which also included installing a new carpet. We look to replace the chairs in the Lady Chapel in 2009 so that when the rewiring and lighting is also completed in 2009 the Lady Chapel will be completely refurbished to a new high standard.
- 2.2 An urgent inspection of the Tower was initiated when cracks appeared in the plasterwork inside the Tower and bell ringing was stopped for a short period. This we were assured was simple movement in the plaster and to be expected in a Bell Tower and was not a concern for the Tower itself. However, as can be seen from the now flagging off of an area 1.5m all around the Tower, we are very concerned with the continuing falling masonry from the outside of the Tower. We are currently seeking advice on what best to do and estimates for putting in place corrective measures. This we expect to include erecting scaffolding and a canopy to catch any falling masonry plus remedial action to the Tower itself. We currently believe that such repair costs could be well in excess of £30,000 and possibly we should think in terms of needing £50,000. Until we get full scaffolding and start the repairs it will be difficult to give any firm estimate as no one knows exactly what is required to be done until we get up there and start. Thankfully David Neal has kindly offered to help us with understanding what can and should be done as well as over-seeing the project.

- 2.3 The significant damp patches behind the “coffee table” in the Social Area has not been arrested, following the outside clearing of gutters and down pipes and is again a serious cause for concern. We now need to look at the causes again and there is some evidence of possible slight subsidence of the Tower. We trust that this is not the case and are planning further investigations over the next few months together with the two “new” apparent damp problems that also need to be looked at. We have no cost estimates for this work at present.
- 2.4 There are quite a few additional areas that are a growing cause for concern with the fabric of St James'. These include
- 2.4.1 Significant dampness all around the alter which results in puddles of water and is believed to be caused by the gas heating
 - 2.4.2 Many of the Church windows where substantial 'gaps' are clearly visible and getting worse. This could clearly be adding to or causing some of our damp problems. In addition there was considerable flaking of plaster on the south wall and the quoins were in bad shape and have weathered badly
 - 2.4.3 The flat roof of the Vestry extension had become very "spongy"
 - 2.4.4 Broken guttering which could also be contributing to the damp.
- 2.5 The refurbishment and maintenance of The Old Church is a fantastic achievement for which we must thank the “Friends of the Old Church Alveston”. A registered charity they have, with the help from the villagers of Alveston together with the many supporters from our parish, continued to maintain the The Old Church and Churchyard both of which are looking splendid. Our thanks are due to all those who have worked long and hard to maintain and keep The Old Church Alveston looking so good.

3.0 Churchyard St James'

The Churchyard maintenance continues to be undertaken by three or more very enthusiastic volunteer parishioners and our sincere thanks are due to them all. The result is that we have a very tidy Churchyard that we can all be proud of. Another working party is to be arranged by the Fabric Committee to carry out additional work in the late spring of 2009.

4.0 Articles of Inquiry 2008

A successful triennial inspection of St James' was conducted on 3rd June 2008 by the Rural Dean and all was found to be satisfactory. A new Terrier has been purchased to hold appropriate records.

Rob Cobley & Dave Johnston,
Churchwardens - March 2009

FRIENDS OF THE OLD CHURCH - MILL LANE

It is pleasing to report that all major work on the old church has now been completed with power supply connected and all the planned interior work finished. Damp continues to be a problem at the west end of the church and some remedial work is to be undertaken in the spring to help alleviate this.

Martyn Ironmonger and Gordon Jeacock continue to do an excellent job on the upkeep of the churchyard and have recently planted over 100 baby hawthorns on the west boundary. The churchyard looks a real picture and parishioners are encouraged to have a walk down there during the spring and summer. An additional bench has been donated and this will be in place for quiet contemplation in this peaceful environment during April.

Thanks also to Jean Abbey for her work in putting together another wonderful floral display in the old church on the weekend of the Open Gardens scheme in Alveston.

A fundraising event was held in October and this has helped to put the charity in a sound position to maintain the old church in a good state of repair for the foreseeable future although fundraising events are planned bi-annually.

The AGM of the charity is to be held on June 23 at the Malt House at 7.30pm. New members are welcome to join the charity and there is no membership charge. For further information please contact please contact;

Peter Woodhams

woodhamspema@btinternet.com

01789 266485

PCC Social Team report April 2008 to March 2009

The social team continue to run a variety of 'functions' for our community - ranging from drinks in support of events in the church to organising a major summer party. Many of the latter are held in the Tiddington Community Centre which is an excellent venue - our thanks again to their committee.

Parish Dinner Dance (11th April) – the delayed New Year event was held in the Thistle Hotel and followed a similar format to previous years – with the addition of some local singers. A good evening was enjoyed by all.

Alveston Village Fete (15th June) – as a result of the successful trial the previous year we again joined forces with the village for the annual fete; successfully running the books/ 'bric-a-brac' and the tea stall.

BBQ and Barn Dance (28th June) – the major, but highly successful, undertaking of the year was blessed with fine weather and attended by 120 all of whom enjoyed the BBQ and dancing. Such was the success of the evening we plan to repeat – with modifications - the venture this summer.

Old Church (25 July) – an 'quiet' drink held after the service

Harvest Supper (4th October) – based on a 'curry night theme' this was seen as a simple but enjoyable evening attended by 70 in the TCC.

Christmas Fair (6th December) – despite being the last of 3 such events, and therefore not as fully supported as we would have wished, the Fair was able to generate some good income from a number of key stalls - and the draw - and as such provided a valuable contribution to our income.

Future events – the team has the following plans for 2009:

- French Bistro and Quiz - Saturday 4th April
- Dedication Festival by Bishop of Coventry – Sunday 17th May
- Alveston Village Fete – planned for Sunday 14th June
- Ordination celebration – Sunday 5th July
- Barn Dance (and Hog Roast) - Saturday 18th July
- Harvest Lunch - Sunday 4th October
- Christmas Fair - Saturday 5th December

The Social Team – Again I wish to end this report by thanking the team, and their long suffering partners, for all the hard work that they undertake to run these events.

Martin Grubb