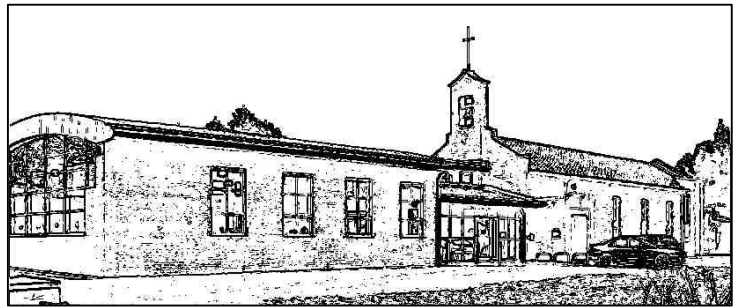


# **Christ Church Barnston** with **St Michael & All Angels** **Pensby**

Wirral North Deanery – Diocese of Chester  
Parish Number 0801



## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** 21 March 2010

**Including a Review of the Parish's work  
and a Statement of Financial Activities  
during 2009**

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This year's APCM Report is in a new format. The Parish will soon be registered as a Charity in its own right; and this means that we have to follow the reporting requirements of the Charity Commission.

The requirements can seem rather bureaucratic. They tell us to set out many details that are probably of limited interest to most readers.

We have tried to ensure that the important things don't get lost in the necessary verbiage. Please ask questions in the meeting or afterwards if anything isn't clear. We will be grateful for any recommendations so that we can make the report more readable while still being legal.

*Paddy*

## A. Reference and Administration Details.

The Parish of Christ Church, Barnston with St Michael & All Angels, Pensby.

Incumbent : Revd Canon Paddy Benson,  
The Vicarage, 87 Barnston Road, Barnston, CH61 1BW  
Parish Office: 85 Barnston Road, Barnston, Heswall, Merseyside CH61 1BW  
Tel 0151 648 2404 Fax 0151 648 2407  
Email: [jan@barnston.info](mailto:jan@barnston.info) Website: [www.barnston.info](http://www.barnston.info)

For the purposes of the Charities Act, our parish is considered to be a Charity. The members of the PCC are also the Trustees of the Charity. During 2009 – 2010 the PCC members were:

Revd Canon Paddy Benson	<i>Incumbent</i>
Revd Ian Urquhart	<i>Associate Minister</i>
Mrs Sue Davies	<i>Secretary</i>
Mrs Chrissie Irlam	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs Hilary Bird	<i>Churchwarden, Barnston</i>
Mr Keith Orum	<i>Deputy Churchwarden, Barnston</i>
Mr Brian Dolman	<i>Churchwarden, Pensby</i>
Mrs Norma Beaumont	<i>Deputy Churchwarden, Pensby</i>
Mrs Linda Dolman [ now deceased]	<i>Member of Diocesan Synod</i>
Mrs Nicky Tolley	<i>Deanery Synod</i>
Mr David Williams	<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>
Mr Peter Bird	<i>Treasurer of the Pensby Project Account</i>
Dr Alan Johnston	
Mr Michael John Ebbs	
Mr Roy Edward	
Mrs Stella Marie Edwards	
Mr Kenneth John Fagan	
Mrs Carol Jordan	
Mr Gordon Bruce Porter	
Mr David John Reed	
Mrs Christa Trollope	
Mrs Ann Gibson Vassie	
Mr Michael Worsley	
Mrs Lynn Alexander	
Miss Victoria Murphy	

The bankers to the PCC are Lloyds-TSB, CCLA Investment Management Ltd and Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Bank Ltd. There are no appointed advisors

The Independent examiner is Mr Roger Hughes, FCA of Lower Farm, Brimstage Road, Heswall.

## B. Structure, Governance & Management.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is excepted by order from registering with the Charity Commission, but will apply for formal registration to the Charity Commission during 2010. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Parishioners who are members of the diocesan synod or deanery synod are automatically members of the PCC as well. Most PCC members were elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. A few members have been co-opted. The serving clergy are members of the PCC. Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting has adopted local customs to limit the length of time which any individual can serve on the PCC without a break.

The Parish Church is Christ Church, Barnston with the Vicar Rev Canon Paddy Benson. The daughter church is St Michael & All Angels, Pensby with Associate Minister Rev Ian Urquhart overseeing.

## **Day to day management of the Parish**

The Parish is managed by the following staff team members:

Revd Canon Paddy Benson	<i>Incumbent</i>
Revd Ian Urquhart	<i>Associate Minister</i>
Mrs Jan Murphy	<i>Administrator</i>

In practice, the staff team is assisted by a large group of volunteers who share responsibility for the different aspects of the Church's life. Volunteers play an essential part as church officers, sides-persons, pastoral visitors, musicians, youth leaders, house-group leaders, toddler group, young women's group, prayer ministry, care and maintenance of the buildings, raising and managing the money, producing the magazine and many more. These volunteers include a retired clergyman, Revd David Trollope, and also our Readers:

Eleanor Benson,  
Mike Collins,  
Linda Dolman [now deceased],  
Jane McCallum,  
Linda Stageman Melbye,  
David Williams

and our Pastoral Workers:

Lynn Alexander,  
Marj Burden,  
Chrissie Irlam,  
Carol Jordan,  
Siru Urquhart

and our commissioned Evangelists,

Karen Collins,  
Aud Leatham,  
Ann Vassie.

PCC members from Barnston and from Pensby occasionally meet as sub-groups of the PCC to discuss matters of particular concern to users of one or other of the sites.

A Mission Committee oversees the parish's commitment to support mission in the UK and abroad. The Mission Committee helps to arrange visits from mission partners, and encourages the Church to pray for mission. The Mission Committee also makes a provisional allocation of a mission tithe from the parish's income. The Mission Committee's allocation has to be ratified by the full PCC.

The parish has four small funds which it keeps to meet particular needs:

- The Silas Fund, which helps members of the parish engaged in mission especially overseas. Funds are given after application by a candidate. Overseen by the Mission Committee
- The Winnie Banks Fund, which provides partial support to young people for mission projects, especially overseas. Funds are given after application by a candidate. Overseen by the Mission Committee.
- A small fund for particular cases of hardship in the parish. Money is given, sometimes anonymously in cash, in response to perceived need. There are two overseers of this fund, one from Barnston and one from Pensby, who must agree before any grant is made. Grants from this fund are very rare – perhaps one every four or five years.

All of these funds are typically topped up by donations from within the Church, or by allocations from the mission tithe, or by the PCC assigning monies from other sources such as legacies. There is also

- Vicar's discretionary fund: a small fund from which occasional grants are made, usually not more than £50, typically in response to an appeal from a charity. This fund is part of the main parish budget.

## **“Compliance”**

The PCC has a duty of care towards people who take part in Church activities and who use Church premises. In order to fulfil this obligation, the PCC has given special attention to the following areas:

### *Child protection*

The PCC has a draft Child Protection policy, which shadows the draft policy published by the Diocese of Chester. The PCC policy will be reviewed when the final Diocesan policy is published.

The PCC requires that any church member who works with children should hold a current CRB certificate. The CRB process is administered by Linda Stageman Melbye, assisted by Chrissie Irlam. The staff team ensures that CRB certificate holders are given training in good practice for the care of children, often using courses laid on by the Diocese.

The PCC has appointed Dr Alan Johnston as the point of contact for any person with concerns about a child-protection issue in the parish.

### *Hygiene*

The kitchens in Barnston and Pensby are subject to inspection by the relevant department of Wirral Borough Council.

Many users of the kitchens have received training and been given a certificate in Food Safety awareness and in Food Preparation. The parish continues to offer training to a wide group of kitchen users. The training has been given through the business department of a local secondary school.

### *Working conditions risk assessment*

A thorough risk assessment was conducted some years ago of working conditions in the Barnston Parish Office. This assessment was carried out by Peter Bird.

Although there have been no obvious major changes in working conditions since that time, it is desirable that a fresh risk assessment should be carried out in the near future.

### **C. Our Parish's Objectives, as adopted by the PCC**

The primary objective is "the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England." The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

Some years ago, our PCC on behalf of the parish adopted the following Vision Statement:

*This Parish:*

- Studies the Bible to hear God's voice and understand his purposes
- Believes that God is at work in his world
- Believes that God calls all people to new life in Jesus Christ
  
- Has been put at the heart of this community to worship God and proclaim the Good News about Jesus
- Reaches out in service to the community's needs
- Welcomes all who come to us, so that they may learn about Jesus
  
- Cares for its members
- Encourages all Christians to grow in discipleship, and to use their gifts in the service of God
- Is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit to undertake new tasks, and to know when activities have run their course.

### **Current Goals and Targets (Growth Action Plan)**

The Diocese of Chester encourages all its parishes to develop a Growth Action Plan [GAP]. Our GAP goals and targets flesh out our Vision Statement.

Our GAP goals represent the parish's priorities over the next five years:

1. Engage with our local community by welcoming its members into the activities of the Church (including worship); and by encouraging and supporting community activities which reflect God's purposes.
2. Turn Christians into disciples: deepening our understanding, obedience and experience in prayer, Bible study and worship. We want to identify and train new leaders, while ensuring that the whole congregation is "crew" not "passengers".
3. Become effective in Jesus-centred evangelism among people of all ages, including children.

The goals are then broken down into SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resourced, Time-limited) targets which the parish hopes to meet during the present year. The PCC assesses progress against these annual targets, and sets new ones. Linda Edward has been appointed by the PCC to monitor our progress against the targets, and to keep us informed both of our successes and also of areas where there is more work to be done.

What		Who	Time
<b>Goal 1</b>		<b>Engage with local community by welcoming its members and by supporting community activities</b>	
	SMART 1	Run three events (performance, fair etc) in Church & Centre to which the public is invited	"Entrepreneurs" in congregation; PCC
	SMART 2	Have Shemmonds Room open 9.00am – 4.00pm, Mon-Fri	PWs & Evangelists
	SMART 3	Planning phase for playground at Pensby Church (research, permissions, funding)	Pensby warden & committee; Stg Cttee, clergy
	SMART 4	Recruit five new members of MU, each under 60 years old	MU Committee & members
	SMART 5	Explore the possibility of a church plant in Heswall Hills	Clergy, Readers & PWs, Home groups
<b>Goal 2</b>		<b>Turn Christians into disciples</b>	
	SMART 1	Have Welcome leaflet in pews	Clergy
	SMART 2	Monthly welcome tea/meal for newcomers in someone's home	Clergy, Readers, PWs and others
	SMART 3	Identify ministries for all current Growing Leaders participants	Clergy
	SMART 4	Increase by 20 the number of people involved in discipleship groups and house groups	DT, Clergy, Alpha Team
	SMART 5	Double the number of people involved in prayer triplets	Readers, PWs
	SMART 6	Run a prayer-focussed event such as 24-7, labyrinth or Windsails	Alan Johnston, Jean Thompson, Clergy, Readers
	SMART 7	Identify participants for Growing Leaders II	Ian, Paddy, Leadership team
<b>Goal 3</b>		<b>Evangelism among people of all ages</b>	
	SMART1	Run seniors' Holiday at Home in Summer 2010	Marj Burden & team
	SMART 2	Sustain Open the Book teams and schools' visits to churches	GPB and OtB teams
	SMART 3	Establish school assembly team, run regular assemblies	GPB, Hilary Bird
	SMART 4	Run two outreach Courses, each with at least 8 guests who stay in continuation groups	Clergy, Readers, PWs, PCC
	SMART 5	Develop team to run "Messy Church" ten times in year	Messy Church team
	SMART 6	Review structure & leadership of children's work & msn	Clergy, children's & msn leaders

## **D. Achievements and Performance.**

At present the parish is in the middle of a ten-week attendance survey. This survey follows similar eight-week surveys which were undertaken in 2001 and 2003. The results of the survey will feed into the planning for future years.

The parish's financial achievements and performance are recorded in the long (and important) section at the end of this document.

Many of the different groups and activities in the parish have sent us an individual annual report, which we print below:

# **Reports of Groups and Activities**

## **JAM Factory and Pathfinders Group in Pensby**

We have had another fun packed year and have had an increase in the number of children attending. We have started up a Stepping Stones in Pensby in September 2009 which is growing in numbers each week.

We have been following the Christian Ministry books but unfortunately they are not being printed any more as the Company has been taken over. The Pathfinder Group are now using material Steve Beal from the Church of the Good Shepherd has produced but we are looking for something suitable for the 5-7 year olds group.

We had a Cake sale in the summer, to raise money for Emma Murphy going out to Uganda to do Missionary work, we raised £60 and were able to buy 21 recorders for Emma to take with her to give to the children, and so they could give music lessons. The younger children made a banner which Emma gave to the orphanage in Antioch. We had an Alternative Halloween in October those who came enjoyed it, but we had a very small attendance.

At Christmas we did our usual Nativity Play, this year we did An Alternative Christmas with Mary coming in a wheelbarrow, Jesus being born in a cave and quite a number of reluctant kings. It was well received and we all enjoyed doing it.

*Jan Murphy*

## **Baptism Preparation**

During the year 21 children were baptised at Barnston Church and 17 at St Michaels & All Angels. Following the initial enquiry to the parish office, I contact each family and explain we have a baptism preparation course which consists of 3 x1 hour sessions held in an evening and lead by Ian our Associate Minister. All parents are more than willing to attend, and we also encourage them to invite the God Parents of the child to come along with them. We always have dates of classes 2 or 3 months ahead in the diary as we usually have a waiting list.

Each family will be allocated a member of the baptism visiting team, who will arrange to visit before the preparation classes commence. They take copies of the baptism and thanksgiving service sheets so the family can read through them before the classes. We also take Stones".

A follow up visit will be arranged to deliver the baptism certificates and a CD recording of the actual Baptism Service. We keep in contact with the families throughout the year and invitations are sent out for special events. These include Easter Bunny Party, Teddy Bears Picnic, Christmas Party, with Christmas Tree Service. All events are very well attended and everyone has a wonderful time, singing, telling stories, games, craft activities.

Our Mothers Union continues to send cards to each child on the anniversary of baptism for 5 years. I thank MU members for their support in this project: especially Joyce Edwards for her hard work as the number of baptisms increase each year.

My sincere thanks to all the Baptism Team Amanda, Margaret, Donna, Pam, Helen, and everyone who helps to make the special event days a special and wonderful time to bring all these families together.

*Chrissie Irlam*

### **1st Barnston Scout Group: Everyday Adventure**

1st Barnston Scout Group provides a challenging and enjoyable co-educational programme of scouting for young people in Barnston parish and surrounding area. Currently the Scout Group comprises two sections, Cub Scouts for 8 – 10½ year olds, and Scouts for 10½ - 14 year olds, but is looking to open a Beaver Scout section for 6 - 8 year olds later in the year.

The Group is led by a small team of committed adult leaders supported by an Executive Committee of parents. In recent years the Group has relied upon the support of leaders from the West Wirral District team but at the beginning of 2010 welcomed Dave Gorman, the former Explorer Scout Commissioner who has been helping out on a temporary basis, as its new permanent Group Scout Leader. Dave is now seeking to develop the group, expand the Leader team, increase its presence in the community and offer more quality scouting to even more young people.

The sections of the group currently meet on Tuesdays evenings in Barnston parish hall but can often be seen out on activities on other evenings and at weekends. Young people enjoy a range of activities from traditional scouting skills of camping, hiking, canoeing, first aid and backwoods cooking to climbing, football, swimming orienteering, cycling, and tug-o-war. All young people are encouraged to achieve in the scouting programme. In 2009 the Cub Scout section was recognised as the Best in District and is high up in the numbers of activity badges awarded. 1st Barnston has been successful in many competitions in 2009: West Wirral Cub Scout Skills (1st); 5-a-side Football (2nd); Tug-O-War (2nd); and Scout Orienteering (2nd), among others.

We continue to be active in the parish, regularly seen at Church Parades and in supporting the parish Christmas Fair, and in the wider community, especially through the Scout & Guide Christmas Charity Post and visits to the local police and fire services.

The Group thanks the parish for its most valuable support and seeks to continue to develop our strong relationship. We ask that the parish keeps the Group, and especially its young people, ever in its prayers as we pray for you too. God Bless.

*Dave Gorman, GSL, 1st Barnston Scout Group*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Barnston Brownies**

Once again the Wednesday night Brownies have been busy working towards interest badges including Number Fun, Healthy Heart and World Traveller during the past twelve months. They have also taken part in the "Changing the World Project", by holding a May Fair raising funds for Claire House Childrens Hospice.

September saw the start of the Centenary year for Guiding when we held a Launch Party. In January the district went to see Snow White at the Floral Pavillion. A couple of my Brownies were able to take part in the World Thinking Day, One World, One Beat at Southport a few weeks ago where they took part in singing, dancing and circus skills. The district Thinking Day Service and Disco was held at Pensby a few weeks ago. This year will see yet more Centenary Events happening.

*Chris Heyes*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Barnston Brownies Review**

During the past year we have had several trips, including Ten Pin Bowling, and a trip to the Pantomime to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. At the end of the summer term we went to our County Guide Site Hadlow for a Barbeque and games evening. The District Revels event took us to Camelot where we joined with girls from other Brownie Packs in the District for a fun packed day. We have had several successful fundraising events. Firstly we had a sleepover to raise money for Claire House Children's Hospice as part of our Change the World initiative. In November we had a Fashion Show with the Guides and we raised £326.00 for our unit funds. This year the Brownies went on a Pack Holiday weekend again. We stayed at Hadlow Cottage in October and had a brilliant time, the theme for the weekend was the Mr Men. We have also enjoyed various visitors including a talk from a lady from Claire House and a jewellery making evening with the Beady beady lady. Just before Christmas we joined together with 1<sup>st</sup> Barnston Guides to present our first Pantomime called Cinderella Rockerfella, we had great fun doing this and we raised £621.00. In September we moved into our Centenary year and we are celebrating in style we had a fantastic launch party with the Rainbows and Guides, this was an it's a knockout type competition with a party tea afterwards. We have also been to Southport with the Guides for a special One World One Beat event where we took part in various dancing and singing workshops and then at the end of the day we renewed our Promise with lots of other girls from the County. We completed the year with another successful Thinking Day Service, which combined a Disco with a Church Service at Pensby .

*Lynne Chapman*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Barnston Guides Review**

1<sup>st</sup> Barnston Guide unit continues to grow and flourish. We have enjoyed a ten pin bowling trip and a jewellery making evening with the Beady Beady lady. In April a group of us went to the Oaklands Activity Centre in North Wales with 3<sup>rd</sup> Barnston Guides for a fun packed weekend rock climbing, canoeing and gorge walking we were all exhausted by the Sunday evening. We ran our own charity shop during the spring term and we raised £75.00 for Save the Children as part of our Change the World initiative. Our Guide outing took us to Alton Towers where we had a fun filled day on all the rides. In the summer we went to camp at Hadlow fields again with 3<sup>rd</sup> Barnston Guides. We spent 5 days under canvas with a mixed bag of weather. We enjoyed cycling down the Wirral Way, outdoor cooking and a trip to Cheshire Oaks for shopping and bowling.

We completed the year with another successful Thinking Day Service, which combined a Disco with a Church Service at Pensby .

*Lynne Chapman*

### **4<sup>th</sup> Barnston Brownies and 3<sup>rd</sup> Barnston Guides**

We meet at Christ Church Barnston on Monday Evenings Brownies from 5.40pm. to 7.10pm, and Guides from 7.15pm -8.45pm

During the past year all Brownies and Guides have gained numerous interest badges individually. The brownies went to Heswall Fire Station and took their Fire Safety Badge. We have done some cooking and also made numerous crafts throughout the year. The brownies and guides have celebrated Chinese New Year, held a Scottish evening, neon party and also held theme nights.

Last July we had a sponsored walk on the Wirral Way and raised money for the Ark Project – as part of the Girlguiding changing the world project. The guides attended Oaklands - an Outdoor activity Centre in North Wales for a weekend in April and also summer camp at Hadlow fields in July.

In November we helped at the church fair to raise money for the Pensby project. In January the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows all went to Floral Pavilion to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Together we are celebrating the Girlguiding centenary and had a launch party in September and visited One World One beat in Southport in February.

Both the Brownies and Guides also attended the Pensby District Thinking Day disco & service.

*For further details contact Paula Corley on 648 2262*

### **Parish Magazine**

Firstly I would like to thank Sue Banks and Sue Davies for their help and support during my first year as Spotlight editor. I would also like to thank the regular contributors, those of you who supplied articles and photographs, the willing distributors and finally, Tom Smith who always manages to print the magazine on time despite me frequently asking for an extension on the deadline!

The magazine provides an opportunity not only to reach out to the Church family but also to the wider community and I would encourage everyone to use it as a way of sharing news and promoting church group meetings and activities.

It is important that the contents of the magazine is of interest to everyone and whilst I have tried to include the occasional children's page etc..., without feedback it is difficult to know what other items you would like to see. So please let me know your thoughts. Thank you for buying and reading Spotlight.

*Pauline Parr*

### **Barnston Church Choir**

We continue, as in previous years, to sing, praise God with our voices and endeavour to help lead worship at Evening Services, both at Barnston and Pensby churches where the services tend to be more traditional. We also sing at weddings, funerals and any other celebrations as requested.

The choir took part in the Salvation Army Concert again in December. Our choir was particularly strong in the male section this year and I think we made a fairly impressive sound. We certainly enjoyed it and I think the audience did too.

Many thanks to the choir for their enthusiasm and loyal support and to Alan Davies for accompanying us this year and for his unfailing expert musicianship regularly each week at evening services. New singers are always welcome so do come and join us; also more support from 'fringe' members would be welcome each Sunday evening! We practise 6pm. before services each Sunday. Contact me on 342 2274 or the Church office if you are interested.

*Hilary Bird*

### **Barnston Pathfinders**

We lead a group of Y6–Y9 students (10 – 14 years) in the Upper Room in Barnston Church Hall. Our numbers have dropped slightly; however, our group remains very enthusiastic and are a joy to be with.

This year we are using Scripture Union material, which incorporates Bible teaching, discussion, art and drama. At present we are looking at the Easter story, and are about to start a series on the life of Joshua.

We also run a social programme to help us to grow together as a group. These monthly activities include such activities as 'early morning walk & breakfast', theatre visit, treasure hunt – and we hope to revisit the new camp site in Cheshire where we had a wonderful weekend last summer, despite almost constant rain!

We would ask you to join with us in praying for our young people, that they will have a real sense of God guiding their daily lives, and that as we meet on Sunday mornings both leaders and Pathfinders will draw closer to our living Lord Jesus.

*Andrew Dennis & Judy Hughes*

### **Meeting Point:**

Meeting Point is outreach to the community for the over 50's. We are a very friendly group encouraging the church family to join us and play a key role in making those who come feel welcome.

We have coffee and open our meeting with prayer. Our speakers are mostly Christian and talk on varied subjects from holidays to their favourite charity. We enjoy a day out once a year around the month of June. The meetings end with an epilogue, hymn and prayer.

Come and join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month – 10-30am at St. Michael and All Angels Church Centre, Pensby. You will be more than welcome.

My thanks to Audrey Leatham for all her hard work in obtaining speakers twice a month and the committee for all their work over the year.

*Marj Burden*

### **Pensby Mothers Union**

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month at 2.15pm in the church hall, and our Corporate Communion is every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 10.30am followed by a Bring and Buy with coffee and sales table.

We enjoyed a varied programme with excellent speakers. We went on two outings—one to the Salt Mine and the other to the Synagogue in Liverpool followed by lunch in the Anglican Cathedral. Deanery events included our Deanery Festival at St Chad's Irby, the Quiet Afternoon at St Michaels Pensby in September and the Overseas Lunch in our new hall in October. The Diocesan Festival in Chester Cathedral was in May—a lovely service.

Our Spring, Summer and Autumn Coffee Mornings were very successful and we were able to give generously to M.U. projects. We collected £270 for Melanesian Missions and our Christian Aid lunch raised £134. We were able to give a cheque of £35 to the Women's Refuge when 3 of us visited it in December. We visited our Prayer Partners at Burton in March for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and they came to us in July. The Knitters in our group support the premature babies at Arrowe, Women's Refuge and Styal Prison and also the Shoe box Appeal.

Some members are involved in Little Tugs, Holiday Club, Parenting Courses, Bliss (prem babies), Meeting Point, Bereavement Lunch, Carers Group and Link Scheme.

We have 50 members on our Register now and we would love to welcome more. We are very friendly and caring so do come and try us out!

*Doreen Roberts*

### **Carers Get Together**

This is a local 'Carers Support Group' for those who care for loved ones. Its aim is to offer carers mutual support and friendship by enabling members to share their difficulties with others who understand, and by allowing them a brief time to relax and enjoy themselves, away from the pressures of their caring role. Our first meeting was February 2009 when we had 10 carers attend. The group has now grown to 24 members, and we will always welcome more as we are sure there are many hidden carers waiting to be found.

During this first year 2009 we have had speakers from Crossroads [Caring for Carers], WIRED [Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability], Wirral Social Services Development Officer, and Helplink. As fun activities we have had Card Making, Wine Glass Painting and a Gentle Exercise Session with a qualified Keep Fit Association Trainer.

Our programme for 2010 includes talks from The Red Cross, The Carers Union, and Colin Vickers from Radio Merseyside. Our activities include Crime Prevention [talk/drama], Mindfulness[senses exercise], Carers Therapist, and Creative Crafts. Last August, and again this year we will join with the 'Holidays at Home' meetings. We have been blessed with willing volunteers from within and outside our Church who help run this group, and we have received wonderful support from our own Church both spiritually and practically. Thank you so much and I pray this group will grow and continue to reach out into our community with Jesus' Love.

*Carol Jordan, Pastoral Worker.*

### **House Group Report**

House Groups continue to be an important means for strengthening our Christian discipleship. One of the targets of the GAP goal 'to turn Christians into disciples', is to increase by 20 the number of people involved in discipleship groups and house groups. At present there are about 60 members in 6 groups. We hope to be starting new groups in the near future.

House Groups meet fortnightly or weekly in the evenings or afternoon with breaks for the school holidays. Their aims are to:

- Grow into the likeness of Jesus through worship, meditation and prayers
- Grow together in love through friendship, sharing and supporting each other
- Grow in understanding God's purpose for our lives through Bible study, courses and reading.
- Grow in service in every aspect of our lives and especially our life together, using the gifts God has given us and witnessing to his love.

If you would like to learn more about house groups, please contact me on 342 2648

*David Trollope*

### **Pensby Flower Guild**

The flower guild is responsible for the flowers in Church each week. We have a rota to clear and tidy, and will also buy and arrange altar flowers for members of the congregation who do not wish to do their own, although we do encourage them to have a go.

The rota means we only have to go about every six weeks. We all get together to decorate the Church for festivals. This year we have welcomed two new members. We are also available to decorate for weddings, charging only for the cost of flowers and small donation to the Church

*T. Burgess*

## **Alpha**

The Alpha and Beta groups are always changing, and this is partly what makes them so interesting. At the beginning of 2009 we had no Alpha Course because no guests turned up! So we worked with on discipling the Beta members in the Christian Faith. For the past two years we have had not one but two Beta groups meeting each week alongside the Alpha guests

Various Alpha graduates have joined one or another Beta group, and some have swapped groups. At the beginning of 2010 we have a large number of Alpha guests, and two established Beta groups. The atmosphere on Thursday evenings is very positive and friendly, making it easy for newcomers to quickly feel at home. It is so encouraging to hear them eventually declare that they have put their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

It is not difficult to spot those in church and on the Electoral Roll who first joined us through Alpha. Their fellowship enriches us, and some are now playing a vital role in church life.

*David Williams*

## **Mission Committee**

We are a committee which exists to raise the profile of mission within the Parish, to allocate the annual mission tithe and to facilitate giving to adults and young people engaged in mission work via the Silas fund and the Winifred Banks Memorial Fund.

Thanks to Paddy's PowerPoint displays before services and the linking of congregations to specific missions, the work our Parish supports is becoming better known. The 8am congregation is linked with Intercontinental Church Society Mike Worsley is the rep. although not on the committee. The 9.00am congregation is linked with the Church Mission Society and Audrey Meacock is the rep. The 10.30am congregation is linked with the South American Mission Society and Ann Vassie is the rep. The 10.45am congregation is linked with Crosslinks and Chrissie Irlam is the rep. The 6.30pm congregation is linked with Operation Mobilisation and David Reed is the rep. David has started a Mission Prayer Meeting in his home once a month. We hope that with the lighter evenings attendance will improve.

We actually had three partner visits over the course of the year. Crosslinks partners Sena and Jane Ounate- Lare and their family visited in May the weekend of the Parish Boundary walk: We were very grateful to Alison Johnson for offering hospitality to the family for their visit. Our outgoing SAMS partner, James Palmer visited Barnston in November, followed by our new SAMS partners Dave and Gina Hucker in January, when we had a bring and share lunch in Pensby. Our harvest lunch in October enabled the church family to find out more about the work of Tearfund and was well attended.

*Ceri Tector*

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at St Michaels and All Angels. It starts at 3.30 pm as the children come out of school and finishes at around 5.30 pm. We started in February 2009 and meet every month apart from July and August. Messy Church is a wonderful experience for families and encourages families to worship together. The session starts with chill out time when the children and parents have the opportunity to play with games and have a drink and biscuit. We then gather the families together and explain what the theme of the evening is and what craft activities are available. We usually have about six craft activities which are linked to the theme. After the craft section everyone moves into church for a short act of worship which usually involves a song, talk and some prayers. After the act of worship we all have a meal together.

Messy Church has gone from strength to strength and now we average at about sixty to seventy people a month. It has become a new church community. Families look forward to returning month after month.

A small group meets the week before to plan the session and this has worked very well. We have covered quite a few topics including creation, Pentecost, John the Baptist and Jesus' visit to the Temple.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is involved with Messy Church, from the people who help out in the kitchen to the parents who help out with the craft activities. I am sure you will all agree that we are blessed to be part of such a wonderful experience to see our children enjoying spending time in church. I pray that God will continue to help us to show his love to our community.

*Amanda Roberts*

### **Contact**

This is a ladies group started 3 years ago by 4 ladies in the church. The aim of Contact is for ladies of all ages from our Church Family to come together on the second Thursday evening in the month. We have a varied programme and encourage our ladies to bring a friend if they wish. We have lots of fun together and we hope that the fellowship we share and the faith that grows among us keeps going from strength to strength. All ladies welcome, come and join us to find out more.

*Lynn Alexander*

### **Bereavement Care**

Funerals are an integral part of our ministry at Christ Church and St Michael's. Barely a week goes past without us having to conduct at least one, this week we have no less than five; so far we are running at approaching 30 in 2010, which is close to a record so far.

There is an ever-present danger here, that the services come so thick and fast the responses become routine; yet every service must be deeply individual, the family has lost *their* loved one, all the memories and sorrows and regrets are deeply personal. And that's what we must respect and share.

All of that has been brought more deeply home than ever before by the loss of Linda Dolman, who brought so much into the light and life and worship of our church, of prayer, of spirituality, of touching our souls in new and unexpected ways, of music and her love of singing, of her deep personal care and compassion for many. The grief of losing her falls hardest on Brian, many others are mourning her loss. The hope and compassion and comfort we hope is being shown there should be a model for our care for others.

This is not a task Paddy and I can fulfil alone. We're so grateful to David Trollope and David Williams, stepping in (especially on Fridays!) to help out, and for the way they so live up to the high ideals we set ourselves. We're also so grateful to that dedicated team of committed people who give of their time and their love to continue supporting the bereaved family, after the funeral service is over, and the full sense of their loss really comes home. The Bereavement team continues to meet every 6 weeks or so, looking back with Paddy and I over the recent funerals, reflecting what we might do next. Sometimes- not a lot! the next of kin live far away, Sometimes, a symbol of our continuing care, an invitation to the annual Remembrance Day service. But for others a personal visit by one of the team, a warm and friendly and caring presence; for many, their becoming part of our worshipping community here, playing an active part in the life and ministry of our church.

Two features of our ongoing care deserve special mention. One is of course the Bereavement lunch, held each month over at Christ Church Barnston church hall, where

about sixty sit down to a delicious meal and good company, united by memories and compassion- and often worship over in church afterwards. For many years this has been superbly overseen by Shiela Siddorn: she has now hung up her ladle, and handed her apron on to others, reflecting her own domestic situation. We are so grateful to her for building up such a much-loved event, underpinned by a strong team, inspired by warmth and friendship for our guests. She has been and is a real encouragement to us all.

The others who deserve a mention are Aud Leatham and the Mothers Union, who reach out support and love those who have been bereaved, to draw them into friendship and worship, to be “mothers” in their new family in the church. Long may this ministry flourish!

*Ian Urquhart*

### **Marriage Preparation Day**

This last year- read “Days”! We did quite a lot of weddings, quite widely spread out through the year- so much so that we did two preparation days, rather than just the one.

Paddy and I always look forward to the 10-15 weddings we do each year, and gently squabble to divvy them up between us- though in 2010 Paddy will get the lion’s share, as I will be away on Sabbatical in the peak wedding months. We want the wedding day to be a great success; but even more, we want the marriage to one of lifelong loving and cherishing. So each year we run a Marriage Preparation Day, in Barnston Church Hall, to which we invite all the couples for whom we’re doing weddings.

The start is usually quite classic- we welcome the couples in for coffee, you can see them sitting nervously on the edge of their chair, wondering, “what **have** we let ourselves in for, a day of being lectured at by two boring old vicars!” But that’s never the way they leave the day- the feedback is always so encouragingly positive, we have a wicked line in video clips to liven the sessions up, there’s lots of interaction between the couples (not infrequently finding out new things about each other!), as we try to give them some tips on preparing not just for their wedding, but for the whole of their married life together, of communicating, understanding each other, awareness of how to resolve those inevitable marital rows... above all, how to continue to **love and cherish** each other for the rest of their lives.

We also make sure that we show them how warm and friendly and hospitable the church can be: hospitality truly is a gracious gift, and we were grateful to Lynne Alexander and Marj Burden for their practical support throughout the day, and to Val and Andrew Patterson and their kitchen team for the excellent food and service throughout the day.

*Ian Urquhart*

### **Little Tugs.**

Little Tugs is a group for young children and their parents/carers. We meet at Pensby Church Centre, on Monday mornings (9.15 - 11.15am) during term-time. The children have free choice of a wide variety of toys before being offered a healthy mid-morning snack. This is followed by a story and song-time. Drinks and crackers are available for the adults too. Little Tugs gives parents and carers the chance to meet and talk to other people with young children. And allows their children to make friends and develop their social skills as well as having lots of fun!

I took over the running of Little Tugs at the end of October 2009 and have a great team who help me. Jean and Donna welcome the parents, carers and children as they arrive, collect the money and keep the register up to date as well as tidying the hall at the end of playtime. Joyce, Dave and Audrey work in the kitchen organising the food and drinks for all. Ailsa helps me in the hall communicating with the parents, carers and children, making sure everyone feels welcome and no one is left sitting by themselves, especially new parents who may not know anyone else. We recently said goodbye to Karen as she moved on to other commitments, we wish her well. Gwen has recently joined the team. She has been

organising the art and craft table over the past couple of weeks, making cards and Easter baskets with the children. She has a lot of creative ideas which we will be using over the coming weeks. I would like to thank those named above for their help and support over the past few months and for making me feel part of the team.

We have been very busy at Little Tugs since the new year and regularly have over forty children attending with their parents or carers. During the coming year we have a number of festivals and special days, which we celebrate with special activities. These include our leavers party when we say goodbye to the children who will be starting school or pre-school in September. They each get a gift from us at Little Tugs to wish them well.

*Janine Vassie*

### **PCC report 2009/2010**

This last twelve months we have had 7 PCC meetings and 5 Standing Committee meetings, our "At home" day was at St Michael's in July.

At the first meeting of the new PCC in April we completed the usual welcome to the new members and the election of PCC officers for the following year; we also had some unfilled positions on the PCC following the APCM – there was one vacancy at Pensby following the election of David Williams as Deputy Warden and another Pensby vacancy as Jan could no longer be an elected PCC member once she became an employee as our new office administrator. She was asked to resign from the PCC but was then co-opted back onto the PCC in her official capacity.

As mentioned at the APCM, the PCC have the power to elect new members, and four candidates were suggested for the two positions, after some discussion and prayer, David Reed and Vicki Murphy were duly elected.

As Chair of the Mission Committee, Ceri Tector had expressed a desire to step down from that post if there was anyone willing to take on that duty, or as she also covers all the unassigned Missions herself she would be content to carry on as Chair if some of these other mission duties could be taken on by other people. A list of the Missions and a short description of who they represent was circulated to PCC members with a request that they should consider whether they were being called to help in this valuable work. At the next PCC meeting in June this appeal resulted in Christa Trollope offering to be the Intercontinental Church Society representative and Roy Edward the CASM rep and Vicki Murphy the WYfC rep. We were very grateful to all of them for taking on these extra jobs.

We were getting nearer to organising the Food Hygiene course for those involved in preparing food for church events. We hoped to be able to do the course and examination all on one day at Pensby with the Tutor from Eleanor's school. Arrangements were also being made for the registration of the Pensby kitchen with Wirral Borough Council.

Following changes in the Church of England charity status, each church will be required to be a charity in its own right and will no longer be able to act under the general umbrella of the Church of England charity. This would require the PCC members to be trustees of the new charity. This at first might appear a little daunting and there were some concerns expressed about financial considerations and where the trustees would stand if the church got into financial difficulties. There was also concern expressed about asking PCC members to sign up as Trustees for a Charity whose objects we do not fully know. PCC members felt that they needed more information before completing the form. We needed to know the articles of association and what the future interaction with the Diocese would be. We also had to decide whether to register with or without full charity status and to find out what were the responsibilities of being a trustee. Paddy said that it was not as scary as it sounded and as long as we acted in a responsible manner, there should not be any problems. We

needed to work out the aims and objects of the organisation and set the achievements against the planned aims.

Roger as our external examiner will need to submit a written report. Each year we will have to write up a set of objectives. The Charity Commissioners will need to know that we have behaved as a charity should and spent the money in a charitable way, not setting aside a lot of money but spending it in the way that those giving it would wish. We should not mislead the donors in any way and must use the money as best as possible for the purpose for which it was given. Reports will be able to be filed electronically and the Charity Commissioners will need to be advised of the retirement of old trustees and the details of new ones, for us this will be each year as the PCC membership changes. More information would be obtained and would be put before a future meeting.

We looked back at the APCM and discussed the new format of that meeting and the consensus was that it had worked very well. Paddy wants to make the APCM more forward looking and not always retrospective. If the church family knows where God is taking us, this is a good thing. On this subject, the Parish Vision has been on the parish website since last year and Paddy thought that it was time to re-assess it and that would be the focus of our Away-day discussions in July. He thought that from the APCM and his experiences at Spring Harvest he was being pushed towards promoting discipleship, he was concerned that new people were coming to church but we were not helping them to become part of the church family. Some newcomers have the confidence to bring themselves forward but many do not. We discussed how to improve our welcoming skills, through inviting people into our own homes for a meal, although we should take care not to be too pushy and scare people away (with our cooking skills?); we have to be aware that not everyone wants to move at the same rate.

We had some excellent fund-raising activities last year – “A Hard Act to Follow” will be just that. We are constantly amazed at the talent in the parish, and Coral Greenwood’s production in May brought that talent to the fore and was a resounding success that raised £1,800. This was followed by another Safari Supper which raised £650 and the Summer Fair brought in another £1,000. These events not only bring in much needed funds but also bring the church family together, they raise our profile in the local community and show that we know how to have fun and enjoy ourselves.

Commitment Sunday had been used to highlight the seriousness of our financial plight; by the summer we were starting to realise how generous the response had been. As always I do not go into details of the finances in this report as Ann and Chrissie will go through the minutiae of that at the APCM; but by June we were aware that the sermon series and leaflets distributed in the weeks leading up to Commitment Sunday had resulted in amazing generosity from the church family. Instead of facing another year in a deficit situation we thought that we should just about break even at the end of the year, we had received nearly £9,000 in one-off donations and increases in gift-aided giving would result in an extra £10,000, plus an extra £1,200 in non gift –aided giving. This meant that we should be able to pay off our arrears of Parish Share from 2008.

The residue of the Shemmonds legacy had been received, this amounted to £7,642. This would normally be passed to the Mission Committee for their decision on its distribution but this time Paddy thought that the PCC/Standing Committee should make the decision. He had discussed this with Ian and they both had ideas on what it could be used for, both at home and abroad, Ian favoured local mission or maybe Testimony Faith Homes or Grace Homes in Africa where we already have contacts. But on the same day as the estate residue arrived Paddy also had an e-mail from Chris Wright, International Director of the Langham Partnership. The Langham Partnership gives bursaries to overseas students and have produced a Swahili Bible commentary, they needed £20,000 to publish the

commentary, and Paddy would have liked to use the Shemmond tithe for this purpose. These matters would come up again at the next PCC meeting.

A lot of time at meetings was spent in evaluating the state of the children's work following Janet resignation, whether we would be able to continue with it at all levels. Paddy thought that it would be a question of what would survive in the next twelve months. No-one wanted Janet's work to come to an end, but although many people had been involved in the children's work, Janet had been the organiser. Messy Church had had an excellent response from children and parents/carers and we thought that there was a sufficient nucleus to carry on with that. A new assemblies' team needed to be set up so that we would be ready to start again in the autumn. The two Open the Book teams are able to run themselves but they need a reference person at the centre. Hilary and Paddy would do some schools visits to try to get the teams in for the next school term. The Sunday schools needed some input to help to get them going again. Paddy would try to tackle some of these elements of children's work over the following few months.

In early May a few of us attended a meeting at Birkenhead School about Growth Action Planning. Following this we did an audit of our present situation, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis that would give us some ideas but would also be somewhat impressionistic. We then needed to discuss areas that we would want to prioritise over the next five years then pick 3 or 4 of these ideas to work on. We then identified SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely) to focus on - targets that we would be able to work on further. The July "At Home" day would be our opportunity to look at this in more detail. Some of us were unfamiliar with this business "jargon" and felt a little out of our depth, but it all became more understandable as the discussion went on.

The "At Home" day looked at our parish and our activities to see what was working and what wasn't, what we should prioritise on, what needed more prayer and what we should maybe re-consider continuing with.

Another project we wished to embark on was a repeat of the Attendance Surveys of 2001 and 2003; we gained a remarkable overview of church life from these surveys and doing another after 6 years would no doubt throw up many interesting facts.

By July the parish website [www.barnston.info](http://www.barnston.info) contained our Parish Vision and the result of our Growth Action Planning (GAP) initiative. There are 3 Goals – each with between 5 and 7 SMART Targets. The Goals cover the next 5 years but the Targets relate to the period 2009 – 2010. At July's meeting we were getting more confident about the future of the children's work but more forward planning was needed before the end of the summer. The continuing work at the new hall at Pensby was taking up a lot of both Brian and David's time, the main problems were various leaks, but worse than this, was the major difficulty in getting the builders to come and look at these on-going snagging items. Despite this we continued to make arrangements for more fund-raisers in the new hall, Linda and Barbara were to hold a joint birthday party in October and the Christmas Fair was booked for November, we were also arranging a visit from the Saltmine Theatre Company in December. At this meeting we decided on the distribution of the residue of the Shemmond legacy, we would send £5,000 to help with the publication of the Swahili Bible and the remainder to the Ferries Family Group working on the east side of the Wirral around New Ferry and Rock Ferry.

In August, we were shocked when, following his holiday in Kenya, Paddy was taken into hospital for an operation on a subdural haematoma. He joined the September meeting for a few minutes and we were delighted that he appeared to be recovering well from the operation, although he still needed to take things quietly until he was fully recovered. We gave thanks to God for the care he received at the hospitals.

Through the Autumn the difficulties at Pensby Hall continued; the builders were notable for their absence, meetings were arranged and no-one turned up. The heavy rains meant that the leaks were a major problem and no-one seemed prepared to do anything to put it right. We were still holding the final payment for both the builders and the architects and a lot of time in meetings was spent discussing how we could reach a solution that was acceptable to all.

On a brighter note the Children's work was progressing well, the numbers at Messy Church were increasing, (luckily we also had an influx in the number of helpers), the school assemblies had been well received and the Open the Book team were at Thingwall School. The Sunday School at Barnston was also getting better. These activities formed part of our SMART targets and it was good to feel that we were really making an impact on the children's lives. Since Janet had left, we had spent a considerable amount of our PCC time in trying to keep going the initiatives that she had started. By the Autumn we were quietly confident that we had done what we set out to do. The children's work had featured in Goal 3 of our Growth Action Planning document, and most of the targets in that Goal were well on the way to being fulfilled.

The next meeting proposed that we should appoint a GAP officer, who would liaise between the PCC and the relevant people for each of the targets. This officer would then report back to the PCC on the progress being made. The clergy did not want the PCC to have spent so much time in discussing the GAP initiatives and then take no further part in it all, the Gap officer will keep the PCC fully up to date with what is happening. The Housegroups seem so far to have been instrumental in taking much of the GAP work on board. We were also really pleased to learn that Bishop Keith had written to say that he was very impressed with our GAP document.

We had from time to time talked about replacing the church windows at Pensby, but there had always been something more urgent to spend the money on, sometimes there hadn't been any spare money anyway. However, we had been left a £10,000 legacy by Warwick Stafford and it was agreed that we should use that money at Pensby as that was where he worshipped. After paying for the new windows the residue could be used to buy staging for the hall. We had quotes from K2 Glass and Heswall Glass and the PCC delegated the final decision to Paddy, Ian, Brian and Ann. We hoped to have the windows replaced by the beginning of 2010.

We still had problems at Pensby over the snagging issues on the new hall and were getting increasingly frustrated at the lack of communication between ourselves, the builders and the architects. This had had a knock-on effect on the Quinquennial Inspection which had been due to take place in 2009, but we did not feel able to ask for this as our architects for the Pensby Project are the same ones who would perform the inspection. We were anxious for all to be resolved as soon as possible.

The Standing Committee met in December and Brian brought in a sample of the proposed new St Michael's windows from Heswall Glass, we all thought they would look excellent and should also help in a small way to reduce the heat loss from the building. We also agreed to new security lighting round Barnston Hall. Other "housekeeping" jobs were the repair of the water heater in Christ Church vestry and the servicing of Barnston Hall boiler; a new projector had been purchased for St Michael's and the new sound system was being decided on.

The Christmas Fair in November had raised in excess of £2,000 and had been a most enjoyable day for everyone. The Saltmine Theatre Company production was also very enjoyable and the staging arrived with minutes to spare before the show.

The dates of the PCC and Standing Committee meetings had been changed rather more frequently than usual in the second half of 2009 due in part to Paddy's convalescence and then just when we thought we were back on track – Ian was taken into hospital shortly

after Christmas, so again meetings were cancelled and timings altered. Thankfully, Ian was soon home again but not fully restored to health, and was not really back to normal until after the start of February. Again we were grateful to God for his care and healing for Ian.

At February's PCC meeting, we again discussed the snagging problems at Pensby Church Hall, the water was still coming in and the builders did not turn up at the appointments made with them. Another problem is the heating in the small meeting room; the current Alpha group using it sometimes keep their coats on and are also using an electric fire. The hot water in the disabled toilet is also causing problems. However despite these problems the hall has been well used and another of the SMART targets has been reached with the hall open on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings for tea and coffee. A new knitting and crochet group meets in the foyer on Friday mornings and is becoming increasingly popular. Several of us completed the Food Hygiene Course in June and subsequently proudly displayed their certificates to everyone, whether they were interested or not. Another course was run recently and we will now have a good group who are qualified to cook on the church premises for all the different events – Alpha courses, Seniors Holiday Club, Bereavement Lunches and all the one-off events that take place. The Pensby kitchen was also passed as complying with the regulations by the Wirral Borough Council Inspector at the Messy Church meeting in January (a slightly bizarre combination but we got through it!)

At the Standing Committee meeting in early March we went into the details of the proposed Commitment Sunday booklet for this year; although we received such generosity from the church family last year when the finances were in a parlous state, we are not able to sit back now and assume that all will be well in the future. The Parish Share has risen again and is now £95,000, so the first £8,000 that comes into the church each month goes straight to the Diocese. Ann and Chrissie keep a close eye on the expenditure, but we have to be aware that at any time we could face some unexpected costs that will have to be met. We also wanted to make sure that the church family understood that we wanted their time and talents just as much as we want their money. Those who help around the churches and church grounds do a valuable job, and we are all so grateful for their efforts.

It has been an up and down sort on the PCC – hugely worrying in the early months over the finances, then great relief and thankfulness when everyone was so generous. The niggling concerns over the trouble with the snagging issues at Pensby seem to come up at every meeting and are still not satisfactorily concluded. Then great concern over the health of both our clergy, coupled with the realisation of how much they each do and how we simply rely on them just to be there for us; again thanks to God for their recovery and return to good health. Some of the children's work has gone from strength to strength but some elements are still not as good as we would wish, we pray for them as the children's work is our future.

We were all deeply saddened by the recent death of Linda, a long time member of the PCC and Diocesan and Deanery Synods, her prayerful input (and her sense of humour) at our meetings will be greatly missed.

So, the end of another PCC year, as always I want to thank Paddy and Ian for their help and kindness to me. Thank you also to Jan, who has had to put up with me flapping around the office, generally getting in the way as she was still learning the ropes in her new position. My thanks also to all my fellow PCC members, who have had to cope with many changes in meeting times, venues and dates, it's a wonder any of them turned up at the right place on the right day. But they are always supportive in and out of meetings and ready to forgive my frequent secretarial blunders. God bless you all

*Sue Davies*

## Finance Report

A full and detailed report on the un-audited 2009 annual accounts was made to Standing Committee on 8<sup>h</sup> March. We remain ever grateful for people's on-going love and care for the work of their church. Several legacies, donations and tax-efficient income of £104,129 prior to tax refund enabled us to show a surplus over the year of £19,065 on normal expenditure against an anticipated loss of £25,000 at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. I am pleased to report that our investments recovered over the year, showing an improvement of £2253.

The response to Commitment Sunday in February 2009 was reflected people's concern, bringing increased income and new pledges. Most of this was gift-aided which will generate further income, and we are encouraged and grateful for such a wonderful response. Our budget for 2010 shows that we hope to continue in a positive vein and make a small surplus by the year end.

The PCC had two major creditors at the end of 2008: £14,000 arrears of parish share to the Diocese and £7,000 arrears of tithe to a PCC elected charity. These were cleared during 2009. During 2009 Sister Janet Arnold, our Children's Minister moved on. We are grateful to Sister Janet for all the wonderful initiatives she set in place. We all miss her deeply and wish her God's blessing in her new employment. The PCC has only one major liability, namely the loan of £70,000 secured on the property at Anton's Road together with an interest free loan of £10,000. The PCC made several donations in excess of £1000 as part of its charitable giving in support of mission partners. The total of such giving was £16,616. There have been no payments made to any PCC members other than reimbursement of expenses incurred in the maintenance of church property.

My grateful thanks go to all of the Finance Team for their tremendous support and assistance in making sure the church fulfils its accounting obligations:

- Chrissie Irlam is getting to grips with the bookkeeping side
- Joy McLinden helps with the ledgers,
- Audrey Meacock and David Burden manage the pledges,
- Audrey Kitchinson, Jean Faragher and Ann Denis do the weekly banking
- Stella Edwards gives administrative help with all the thank you letters
- Jan Murphy skilfully controls the petty cash
- Peter Bird gives unfailing support, managing the Pensby Project funds
- Roger Hughes supports us and examines our annual accounts.

Without them all I would have a very onerous task. During the year Gill Foster moved on from her post as parish administrator. I am very grateful to all the support I had from Gill over the years. I wish her God's greatest blessing in her new role as Curate at Frankby Parish. I welcome Jan Murphy who has come as our new parish administrator. Many thanks to Jan who has been coming to grips with all the roles within a very busy parish office and has still managed to support the finance team most positively.

### The Accounts

The Balance Sheet shows that the worth of the parish has increased by £100,493.

*The most significant variances from last year*

- The fixed assets
- Current assets
- and Current Liabilities

Fixed assets reflect the capitalisation of the new building at Pensby and the fixture and fittings within that building. PCC has still to form a depreciation policy for these new assets. Current assets have increased significantly from 2008 due to increased income. Current liabilities reflect retention payments still outstanding on the new building. Long term liabilities reflect £70,000 borrowings from National Westminster Bank and £10,000 interest free loan.

### *Net Assets*

Net Assets are represented by the following reserves:

- £200,000 in the property at 8 Antons Road – this needs no explanation as it is unchanged from 2007.
- £547,184 at the Pensby Project Fund – the opening balance b/d from 2008 was £516,063.
- £66,187 in General Church Fund. The opening balance of church reserves b/d from 2008 was £31,794. The church has 2581 shares at Central Board of Finance and they made a gain in market value of £2253 in 2009.

### *The Way Ahead.*

In 2010 we are going to need in excess of £174,000, including £95,147 for parish share. As we have not replaced Sister Janet, our ministry costs will only be about £3000 but we will need £30,000 to maintain church properties and £16,000 for tithe obligations. We expect a small surplus of £1000, assuming income remains at 2009 levels. We remain dependent on the Lord for his direction and blessings as we serve him in this community. Please continue to hold the management of our parish in your prayers during these unsettled financial times.

*Mrs Ann Vassie, Parish Clerk*

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Christ Church Barnston with St Michael & All Angels, Pensby.**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and S43 of the Charities Act 1993(the Act).

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and S23(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 financial statements.

### **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
  - a. to keep accounting records (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
  - b. to prepare financial statements which accord with accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met nor;
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed.....

*Roger Hughes, Independent Examiner. March 2010.*

**CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON with  
ST MICHAELS and ALL ANGELS PENSBY**

**NOTES TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS DECEMBER 2009**

**Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost basis modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with the accounting policies and disclaimers set out below.

During this year the Parish did not hold a charity registration in its own right but continued to have charitable status by virtue of Chester Diocese registration. Therefore, in the view of the PCC these accounts do not yet have to comply in format with the Charities Acts. However, as application for charitable status is work in progress, these accounts have been prepared in line with Church Guide of 2006.

Fixed assets are valued at market value where this is known. In 2007 the parish had an asset in the course of construction. The costs of the construction as at 31st December 2009 are shown in the balance sheet. Fixture and Fittings relating to St Michael's Church Centre are shown in the Balance Sheet at actual cost. All fixed assets will be depreciated in line with PCC policy.

The PCC has maintenance responsibility for the benefice property of St Michael & All Angels church but is not required to show this in its accounts.

The PCC retains inalienable assets for its own use as a result of previous legacies but under current Charity legislation these cannot be sold. They are valued at mid-market values at the close of business on the last day of the accounting period.

Dividends on ordinary stocks are credited to income on the dates these are received.

The PCC's 'Reserve Policy' is to have accumulated realisable cash assets equivalent to 3 months expenses. i.e. about £35,000.

**The Balance Sheet**

The balance Sheet shows the accumulated worth of the parish including the value of the completed new hall at St Michael's Centre as at 31 December 2009.

**1. Fixed Assets and Investments:** include

- a) Property owned by the parish at Antons Road, Pensby.
- b) The PCC took the new hall at St Michael's into use in July 2008. Several finishing touches remain to be completed and a final stage payment is due the builder on satisfactory completion of all tasks. The building has been valued at cumulative costs as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. The final stage payment has been shown as a creditor.
- c) 2581 shares owned by the PCC at CCLA Investment Management Ltd. These investments are stated at market value. Changes in market value from previous year are shown in the *Statement of Recognisable Gains and Losses*
- d) Gains/Losses on the Income & Expenditure Accounts, write-backs on the amortisation of building costs and fixture and fittings and gains/losses on accumulated shares have been taken to the *Statement of Recognisable Gains and Losses* and are thus reflected in reserves on the Balance Sheet.

## 2. Working Capital:

a) *Cash at bank* includes:

CBF Deposit Fund	£14,767
Current account at CAF Bank Ltd.	£ 100
Current account Project Funds	£34,839
Deposit accounts at CAF Bank Ltd	£23,715
TOTAL	<u>£73,421</u>

b) *Debtors* reflect income received in 2009 but not cleared through the bank until 2010.

c) *Prepayments and accruals* have arisen from the planned payment accounts for utilities, council tax, insurance, etc.

d) *Creditors (less than 1 year)* are the value of unpaid invoices together with cheques and direct debits uncleared through the bank at 31 Dec. 2009. All church commitments outstanding at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 were paid in 2009. The final stage payment on St Michael's Church Centre remains outstanding.

e) *Creditors (greater than 1 year)*: During 2008 the PCC entered into a loan agreement with National Westminster Bank Plc to complete the building of the new hall. The loan agreed was for £125,000 secured against the PCC property at 8, Antons Road, Pensby. However, the PCC has only drawn down £70,000 of this agreed sum. The PCC also accepted interest free loans of £11,000 from members of the church family. One loan has been converted to a donation on instructions from the donor.

## 3. The Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses

This account shows the extent of any changes in year of the value of assets stated on the Balance Sheet together with surplus and deficits from the Income and Expenditure accounts.

## 4. Income & Expenditure Accounts.

a) There are three accounts. The consolidated account gives an account of the total activity of the church. The *church account* shows the income and running costs of the church and the *project account* reflects the in-year movements on the income and expenditure of the Pensby Project.

b) Income to the *church account* and to the *project account* comes from parish collections, church activities and fund-raising activities together with interest generated by church investments.

c) All income to the *project account* is restricted and is used purely to service the loan.

d) The church received a total of £36,963 from HMR&C as a result of those members of the church family who signed up to the "Gift Aid" scheme. £12,355 is attributable to the Project account. This is an appreciable sum and made a great contribution to reducing both the deficit and the borrowing requirement.

e) Administration expenditure Paper; Maintenance + repairs of photocopiers; Telecommunications; Postage; Stationery; Subscriptions; Cleaning supplies; Honoraria; etc. Some of this expenditure was offset by miscellaneous income.

f) Charitable Donations: This expenditure represents the tithe approved by the PCC and is based on a % of previous year's income together with covenanted donations specifically assigned by the donors for mission giving. In 2009 this included donations to:

OM	£1600
SAMS	£1900
CMS	£1800
CROSSLINKS	£1900
TEARFUND	£1500
ICS	£1100
A ROCHA UK	£750
CPAS	£1720
WYFC	£1250
ADOPTION MATTERS	£325
Donations from Silas Fund	£500
Donations from Winnie Banks Fund	£400
Assigned donations	£720
Unallocated tithe, etc. from 2008	£1151
TOTAL	<u>£16616</u>

g) Insurance: The annual costs of insuring all church property dropped from £5550 to £4540 when the new Pensby new building was completed. Total annual insurance costs for all sites are now £4607.

h) Capital & Equipment Expenditure: This includes expenditure during 2009 in connection with the New Hall: building costs & professional fees, fixture & fittings. All of this expenditure has been amortised and carried to the Balance Sheet.

**Excess/Deficit, project account :**

The project accumulated excesses of £19620 + tax credits of £12355 equalling a total surplus of £31,975.

The accumulated debt was £80,000 which is being serviced by regular giving from the church family. The main creditor at 31<sup>st</sup> December is the final stage payment to the builders of £12,150.

**Excess/Deficit, church account:**

There was a surplus of £19,786 on church activities. Tax credits in year were £24,608. There were no exceptional creditors at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

**CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON with ST MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS PENSBY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009**

		£	£	2009 £	£	2008 £
	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		Total
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Property - 8 Antons Road	1	200,000			200,000	
St Michael's Church Centre		567,287			561,371	
St Michael's Centre fixture & fittings		<u>41,852</u>		809,139	<u>36,267</u>	797,638
<b>Investments</b>						
3.5% War stock 2581 Shares	1	<u>26,388</u>		26,388	<u>24,135</u>	24,135
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Cash at Bank	2a	38,582	34,839	73,421	47,109	
Prepayments		2,759		2,759	1,524	
Debtors	2b	2,345		2,345	2,080	
Petty Cash		59		59	113	
				<u>78,584</u>		50,826
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Creditors	2c	3,259	15,603		24,992	
Accruals		1,878		20,740	18,750	43,742
<b>Net Current Assets</b>						
				<u>57,844</u>		<u>7,084</u>
<b>Long Term Liabilities (more than 1 year)</b>						
loans	2e		80,000		81,000	
				<u>80,000</u>		<u>81,000</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>						
				<u>813,371</u>		<u>747,857</u>
Represented by:						
8 Antons Road		200,000		200,000		200,000
St Michael's Church Centre Fund:						
Opening Balance			516,063		395,557	
Add excess Income over Expenditure			31,121	547,184	120,506	516,063
General Fund:						
Opening Balance		31,794			51,807	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year: parish activities		32,140			-11,734	
Gain/Loss on CCLA Investment		2,253		66,187	-8,279	31,794
				<u>813,371</u>		<u>747,857</u>

**STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2009.**

				2009			2008
	note	£	£	£	£	£	
		Unrestricted	Restricted				
Profit/loss attributable to Project	3		19,620.00		-11,734		
Profit/Loss attributable to Parish activities		32,139.81			-350,682		
Add back costs for project amortised			5,916.00				
Add back costs for fixture & fittings amortised			5,585.00	63,260.81	471,188.	108,772.	
<hr/>							
Gain on sale of war stock							
Gain on restatement of CCLA shares at market value		2,253.00		2,253.00	-8,279.	-8,279	
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Total recognised gains & losses relating to the year				<u>65,513.81</u>		<u>100,493</u>	

**CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON with ST MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS PENSBY**  
**CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2009 total £	2008 total £
<b>Income</b>					
Tax efficient giving	4d	116,481	14,840	131,321	136,309
Other giving legacies		21,645	2,820	24,465	35,434
			0	0	70,000
<b>sub total Giving</b>		<b>138,126</b>	<b>17,660</b>	<b>155,786</b>	<b>241,743</b>
<b>other Income</b>					
Tax recovered from HMR&C	4d	24,608	12,355	36,963	35,537
interest & dividends		1,458	0	1,458	4,450
donations		13,151	5,814	18,965	7,050
Misc. Fundraising			11,894	11,894	12,487
PCC Fees		5,297	0	5,297	5,917
Hall Lettings		13,198	0	13,198	6,443
Parish Magazine		1,991	0	1,991	2,340
other misc. income		4,345	0	4,345	972
<b>sub total Other Income</b>		<b>64,048</b>	<b>30,063</b>	<b>94,111</b>	<b>75,196</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>202,174</b>	<b>47,723</b>	<b>249,897</b>	<b>316,939</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Costs of Clergy:					
Parish Share		90,529		90,529	86,146
Other Ministry costs		13,148		13,148	20,502
<b>Sub total clergy costs</b>		<b>103,677</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103,677</b>	<b>106,648</b>
Maintenance:					
Churches		10,819		10,819	10,896
Halls		20,260		20,260	12,560
Other PCC property		3,168		3,168	4,696
<b>Sub total maintenance costs</b>		<b>34,247</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,247</b>	<b>28,152</b>
<b>Other Expenditure:</b>					
Charitable Donations	4g	16,616		16,616	24,974
Bank charges & interest payable		0	2,423	2,423	8,220
Fund raising, outreach, schools, etc.		1,786	1,816	3,602	3,716
Office staff costs		9,220		9,220	10,575
Training		3,264		3,264	2,072
Parish Magazine		2,454		2,454	2,643
General administration	4e	11,844		11,844	9,839
<b>Sub total other expenditure</b>		<b>45,184</b>	<b>4,239</b>	<b>49,423</b>	<b>62,039</b>
<b>Capital &amp; Equipment expenditure:</b>					
St Michael's Parish Centre	4i		10,789	10,789	481,149
Parish Office				0	1,367
<b>Sub total capital expenditure</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>10,789</b>	<b>10,789</b>	<b>482,516</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>183,108</b>	<b>15,028</b>	<b>198,136</b>	<b>679,355</b>
<b>Excess/(deficit) Income to Expend.</b>	<b>4j&amp;k</b>	<b>19,066</b>	<b>32,695</b>	<b>51,761</b>	<b>-362,416</b>

**CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON with ST MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS  
PENSBY**

**PENSBY PROJECT INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009**

	Note	Unrestricted £	restricted £	2009 total £	2008 total £
<b>Income</b>					
Donations			5,094	5,094	40,238
Monthly giving			17,660	17,660	17,109
Misc. Fundraising			11,894	11,894	12,487
legacy			0	0	63,000
interest receivable			0	0	1,089
Money moved to Lloyds TSB			0	0	0
HMR&C gift aid	4j		0	0	8,987
<u>Total Income</u>		0	34,648	34,648	142,910
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Donations				0	3,940
Bank charges & interest payable			2,423	2,423	8,049
Children's Worker			0	0	458
Professional fees	4i		217	217	14,690
Demolition of old hall			0	0	18,330
New Hall construction costs	4i		5,700	5,700	410,643
Fund raising expenses			1,816	1,816	1,215
fixture & fittings	4i		4,872	4,872	36,267
<u>Capital equipment</u>					
Antons Road				0	0
St Michael's				0	0
Christ Church				0	0
<u>Total expenditure</u>		0	15,028	15,028	493,592
<b>Excess/(deficit) Income to Expend.</b>		0	19,620	19,620	-350,682

**CHURCH INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009**

	Note	£	£	2009 £	2008 £
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Church Giving					
Plate		14,124		14,124	12,971
Free Will		7,521		7,521	7,307
Gift aid scheme	4d	104,129		104,129	84,854
Payroll Giving		12,352		12,352	9,265
<b>Total giving</b>		<b>138,126</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>138,126</b>	<b>114,397</b>
Donations, retiring collections, etc.		13,151	720	13,871	14,054
PCC fees		5,297		5,297	5,917
Interest & Dividends		1,458		1,458	3,361
Tax recoverable	4d	24,608	12,355	36,963	26,550
Hall Lettings		13,198		13,198	6,443
Sales of Parish Magazine		1,991		1,991	2,339
Other income, internal creditors, etc.		4,345		4,345	968
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>64,047</b>	<b>13,075</b>	<b>77,122</b>	<b>59,632</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>202,172</b>	<b>13,075</b>	<b>215,247</b>	<b>174,029</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Clergy Costs: Parish Share		90,529		90,529	86,146
Ministry		13,148		13,148	20,044
Locum clergy		0		0	0
<b>total clergy costs</b>		<b>103,677</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103,677</b>	<b>106,190</b>
Maintenance: Churches		10,819		10,819	10,896
Halls		20,260		20,260	12,559
Other PCC property		3,168		3,168	4,696
<b>total maintenance</b>		<b>34,247</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,247</b>	<b>28,151</b>
Pensby project					1,219
Staff costs		9,220		9,220	10,575
Parish Magazine		2,454		2,454	2,644
Administration		11,844		11,844	11,377
Children's ministry, Sunday schools, etc.		425		425	1,259
Training		3,264		3,264	2,072
Charitable Donations	4g	16,616		16,616	21,034
Outreach		1,361		1,361	1,242
		45,183	0	45,183	50,203
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>183,108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>183,108</b>	<b>185,763</b>
Excess/(deficit) Income to Expend.		<b>19,065</b>	<b>13,075</b>	<b>32,140</b>	<b>-11,734</b>