



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **FOR THE YEAR**

**2008**

**Presented to the  
Annual Church Meeting  
on Tuesday 21 April 2009**

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# 1. Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year April 2008 – April 2009

## Administrative Information

Holy Trinity Church is situated on Rickmansworth Road, Northwood. It is part of the Deanery of Harrow, Episcopal Area of Willesden, Diocese of London, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Parish Office, Holy Trinity Church, Gateway Close, Northwood HA6 2RP  
Tel: 01923 822990 Email: office@htnorthwood.co.uk Website: <http://www.htnorthwood.co.uk/>

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) members who have served from 22nd April 2008 until the date this report was approved are:

### PCC - LIST OF MEMBERS

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

Incumbent:	The Reverend Canon Richard Bartlett	Chairman
Wardens:	Mr Barry Southcott	Vice Chairman
	Mr Andrew Newell	

End of term

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mrs Margaret Nicholson	Reader	May 2011
Mrs Ann Kentfield	Reader	May 2011
Mr Nigel Mundy		May 2011
Mr Nigel Washbourn		May 2011
Mr Brian Watkins	Deputy Warden and CTN Representative	May 2011

Elected members:

Mr Simon Brown	APCM 2009
Mrs Carole Hamwijk	APCM 2009
Mrs Leigh Ralphs	APCM 2009
Mrs Gaynor Turner	APCM 2009
Mrs Carol Went	APCM 2009
Miss Annabel Wheatland	APCM 2009
Mr Sven Beyrich	APCM 2010
Mrs Sally Moore	APCM 2010
Mr Robert Orr	APCM 2010
Mr John Spencer	APCM 2010
Mr Carl Landsbert	APCM 2011
Mr Adrian Paterson	APCM 2011

Co-opted members:

Mr John Barraclough	Honorary Surveyor
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Ex officio members:

Mr Kevin Draper  
Rev Elaine Dando  
Mr Daniel Norris

Youth and Children's Minister  
Assistant Priest (from June 2008)  
Headteacher of Holy Trinity School:

Mr Richard Read and Mrs Hazel Paterson remained Deputy Wardens although no longer members of the PCC.

Mrs Sue Boulton, the Parish Administrator, acts as the Minutes Secretary of the PCC.

**Holy Trinity Bankers:** NatWest, 37 Green Lane, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AF

## Structure, governance and 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 method and appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is a charity, which is exempt from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members may serve for up to three sessions of three years. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Some members have been co-opted to fulfil a special need.

The PCC has met eight times during the year. Members of the PCC are encouraged to serve on at least one of the committees below, to which much of the work of the PCC is delegated:

The Standing Committee is the only committee legally required. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The other committees are: Finance, Church Hall and Plant, Mission and Outreach, Charitable Giving, Fete, Events and Communications. Reports of some of these can be found elsewhere in the Annual Report.

The Vicar and Church Wardens are ex officio members of all committees. Committees are able to co-opt other members from within or outside of the PCC for specific events.

## Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Richard Bartlett, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the Church building, Churchyard, Hall, Cloisters, the surrounding grounds and the Youth Minister's House at Tanworth Close.

The work of the PCC is underpinned by our Parish Mission Statement:

We are aiming by God's strength to be a welcoming community of Christ inspired by three values: Openness to God, Inclusiveness of all, Serving one another.

This Mission Statement is the basis of our Parish Mission Action Plan which will be presented to the APCM.

## Achievements and performance

### Church attendance

There are 374 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 177 of whom are resident in the parish, and 197 of whom are not resident in the parish. The new Electoral Roll commenced in April 2007. The average weekly attendance, counted in October 2008 was 355, but this number significantly increased at major festivals.

### Review of the year

The year, just a few days after the last APCM, began by focussing on Mission. The SHAPE, young people's, group hosted an 'Evening at the Ritz' transforming the Church Hall, providing good food and drink, and raising money for *Orphaids* in Ecuador, and for Kat Gempf (one of our young people) to visit there during her gap year.

At the first PCC meeting of the year, in May, the PCC committees outlined above were formed. These have enabled much PCC activity to be undertaken in small groups, and a great deal of hard work by many members has enabled this year to be an exciting year in the life of Holy Trinity, for which I am very grateful. Reports of their activities are found later in this report. One of the first activities for the whole PCC to endorse was the sale of 99 High Street and purchase of 5 Tanworth Close, which is a much more suitable accommodation for our Youth and Children's Minister to live in, and conforms to the guidelines of requirements for Assistant Parish Staff housing.

Between Easter and July the first course for Children to be admitted to Holy Communion took place with nine enthusiastic candidates, aged 8 – 10, participating. They were admitted to receive Holy Communion on 6<sup>th</sup> July. This will become an annual part of our Holy Trinity Calendar.

A post Easter Emmaus Course focusing on God the Holy Spirit was led by Ann Kentfield. On Ascension Day a new red Altar frontal was dedicated. The Family Fete on 10<sup>th</sup> May was a resounding success.

At the beginning of May we welcomed Archbishop Mauricio and Sandra Andrade into the parish, for their three months sabbatical study leave before the Lambeth Conference in July. I am most grateful to those who opened their homes to them, and enabled them to feel so 'at home' during their time with us.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the Revd Elaine Dando was licensed by the Archdeacon as Assistant Priest in the parish. Elaine has brought many gifts and new initiatives which have already been well exercised in the parish. She is normally in the parish on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Youth and Children's work has remained an important part of our ministry, and is reported on later in the report. In July, at the end of a very successful Holiday Club Week we bade farewell and thanks to Thiago Andrade who returned to Brazil to continue his university studies. Thiago made an exceptional contribution to the life of our parish in many ways, and was so good to have amongst us as a living link between our parish and the Diocese of Brasilia.

In September we welcomed our new Children's and Youth Work Assistant, Alice Simpson, who quickly has made an important contribution to our children's and youth ministry. Her creative and artistic flair adds diversity to our ministry team.

The year has seen much activity at Holy Trinity School. Building work for the new School Nursery began in January 2008 and was completed in time for the new academic year in September 2008. The site of the old nursery has been turned into an extension of the playground with some new playground equipment and the footpath re-routed. This has all been the result of much negotiation between the PCC and the School Governors, along with the Diocese and the London Diocesan Board for Schools. The school gained an 'outstanding' grade in its RE inspection in October and is currently oversubscribed.

On 19<sup>th</sup> November our Readers, Ann Kentfield and Margaret Nicholson were re-licensed in the Quinquennial Service at St Paul's Cathedral. Kevin Draper, Youth and Children's Minister, was re-licensed alongside all of the other Commission Ministers in the Willesden Episcopal Area on 21<sup>st</sup> January at St John's Southall. A good support group from the parish went to both of these occasions. Our grateful thanks go to Margaret, Ann and Kevin for their valued ministry, without which the ministry at Holy Trinity would undoubtedly be much poorer. In March, on passing her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, Margaret Nicholson moved from being a Licensed Reader to having Permission to Officiate.

Particular thanks are also due to Deidre Page and Sue Gwynne-Evans and their Parish Lunch team for 25 years of service to the community of Holy Trinity and beyond in serving a monthly parish lunch. It is with sadness that the last of these took place in December. It is already much missed, and we are looking for new ways to engage and respond to the needs of the community. The Lenten Lunches are one such new beginning.

Members of the PCC have begun discussing ideas for a New Welcome Area and Nave Altar area. Initial plans have been drawn up by Michael Hirst, our Church Quinquennial Architect, and will be presented to the parish at the APCM.

In addition to the above, members of our congregation have faithfully been involved in all the celebrations of the Christian year. We have been pleased to welcome many extra people at our principal celebrations of Christmas and Easter and at other times; also at the many Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) that we are privileged to conduct. Prayer is a daily feature of the life of our parish; it is, and must always remain the backbone of all that we do.

The reports which follow paint a picture of our church which is a lively and diverse family, committed to the Mission of God in this place, and which strives to embody the principles of our Mission Statement.

*Richard Bartlett*

## 2. Financial Review and Accounts

The financial activities of the PCC during 2008 are summarised below followed by the statutory financial statements, Independent examiner's report and the budget for 2009.

The key highlights are:-

**General account** – Deficit for year of £4,857 leaving a balance of just £84!

Planned giving increased 8.0% over 2007 and gift aid tax recovered also increased by 9.5%, whilst open plate collections fell 16.8%. With a lower contribution from donations, total 'voluntary income' was only 3.1% higher in 2008. Income from other sources in the year was little changed and total income increased by just 4%.

After allowing for the cost of our assistant priest for half a year consequent on our Vicar's appointment as an Area Dean, expenditures however increased by 6.1%.

In particular, the long overdue repairs and painting of the Hall contributed significantly to the increase in costs

**Designated accounts** – Deficit of £5,539

Upgrading of the Church sound system, electrical work in the Hall and external work to the Cloisters building and to the Flat totalling £12,505 exceeded income from investments and fund raising.

**Restricted funds** - £73,768 surplus

Generous gifts for the refurbishment of the Lady Chapel and the Parish room kitchen met the costs of this work. Additionally over £73,000 of gifts were contributed which almost met the full additional cash cost involved in acquiring more suitable Parish accommodation.

**Movement in Funds (Resources)**

The Parish investments suffered with the general market decline and showed an unrealised loss of £20,375 at the year end. There was however a realised gain of £17,147 over its then valuation on the sale of 99, High Street. There were also some re-allocations between funds (non cash) which had no net effect on total funds.

**Balance Sheet**

It will be noted that the total Parish funds have increased by a net £60,000 since 2007, due mainly to the gifts referred to above.

Liabilities of £20,407 include an interest free 'bridging' loan of £17,500 advanced for the house purchase and sale, all but £3,400 of which has been paid back in 2009.

**Reserves policy**

The PCC accounting policy with respect to Funds is set out in note 1 of the Accounting policies. Designated funds include the *House reserve fund*, being the investment of unrestricted funds in a Parish property, 5, Tanworth Close. The *Maintenance fund*, built up over the years is held to meet major repairs and improvements, mindful of the requirements and recommendations set out in the Quinquennial inspections. A working capital reserve is held to meet the fluctuations in short term cash flows and is approximately 4-6 weeks of income/expenditure.

**The budget for 2009**

The General account 'housekeeping' budget for the current year has been drawn up very tightly and leaves little room for error in either income or expenditure. The challenge is to raise our stewardship giving by over £6,000 at the same time holding expenditure just below last year's total. The latter will be helped, for this year only, by an unchanged common fund contribution of £89,200 and lower planned expenditure on Hall and Parish room maintenance.

There is a £3,000 challenge for 'designated' fund raising to enable us to maintain and hopefully increase our charitable giving. The Parish Fete remains a most important fund raising event. It is hoped that the costs of some essential repairs to the Church building can largely be met from maintenance fund income.

*Brian Watkins - Acting Treasurer*

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

	Notes	2008			Total Funds	2007 Total Funds
		Unrestricted Funds General	Designated	Restricted Funds		
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Voluntary Income	2a	144,565		15,448	160,013	144,179
Activities for generating funds	2b	10,077	3,769	73,130	86,976	10,866
Income from investments	2c	7,985	3,197	21	11,203	10,397
Income from church activities	2d	24,174			24,174	22,813
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>186,801</b>	<b>6,966</b>	<b>88,599</b>	<b>282,366</b>	<b>188,255</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Charitable giving		2,894		5,918	8,812	7,631
Church activities	3a	187,690	9,565	8,913	206,168	181,402
Investment outgoings		1,074	2,940		4,014	
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>191,658</b>	<b>12,505</b>	<b>14,831</b>	<b>218,994</b>	<b>189,033</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN RESOURCES</b>						
Losses on investments (unrealised)		(4,857)	(5,539)	73,768	63,372	(778)
Gains on property disposal (realised)			6,457	10,690	17,147	
Net transfers between funds	9	1,741	13,384	(15,125)		
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(3,116)</b>	<b>(6,073)</b>	<b>69,333</b>	<b>60,144</b>	<b>(7,115)</b>
Balances brought forward		3,200	180,643	184,543	368,386	375,701
Balances carried forward		84	174,570	253,876	428,530	368,586

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2008**

		2008 £		2007 £	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible	5a	355,436		261,984	
Investments	5b	44,899	400,335	65,274	327,258
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	6	7,102		20,000	
Short term deposits		19,500		19,500	
Cash at bank		22,000	48,602	10,285	49,785
			448,937		377,043
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Amounts falling due within 1 year	7		20,407		8,657
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>428,530</b>		<b>368,386</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>					
Funds: General	9		84		3,200
Designated	9		174,570		180,643
Restricted	9		253,876		184,543
			428,530		368,386

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

**1. Accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 which require PCCs to comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 (1993 Act) and the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting by charities (SORP) issued in March 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliations to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

**Funds**

*Restricted funds* represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may be expended only on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

*Designated funds* represent unrestricted funds set aside by the PCC for specific future purposes or projects.

*Unrestricted funds* are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

**Incoming resources**

Planned giving, open plate collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable and interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

**Resources expended**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Common Fund is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

**Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96 (2) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable 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 church inventory, which

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can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

No depreciation is provided on freehold property, as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value. The church hall is excluded from the accounts not only on the basis of insufficient historical cost information but also on the basis that its original value would have been written off due to its age (over 30 years) and its construction method.

*Investments* are stated at market value.

## 2. Incoming resources

	General	2008		Total Funds	2007 Total Funds
		Desig-nated	Restricted		
2a. Voluntary income					
Planned giving	96,810			96,810	89,632
Open plate collections	11,010			11,010	13,235
Gift aid Tax recoverable	28,816			28,816	26,320
Donations and appeals	7,929		15,448	23,377	12,972
Legacies					1,000
	<u>144,565</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15,448</u>	<u>160,013</u>	<u>143,159</u>
2b. Activities for generating funds					
Fund raising events	7,877	3,769	72,908	84,554	8,024
Holiday club	1,023			1,023	1,020
Other funds generated	1,177		222	1,399	2,842
	<u>10,077</u>	<u>3,769</u>	<u>73,130</u>	<u>86,976</u>	<u>11,886</u>
2c. Investment income					
Interest	1,770	3,197	21	4,988	4,897
Property rent	6,215			6,215	5,500
	<u>7,985</u>	<u>3,197</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>11,203</u>	<u>10,397</u>
2d. Income from church activities					
Parish news	2,496			2,496	2,777
Fees payable to the PCC	3,453			3,453	2,287
Hall and Parish room	18,225			18,225	17,749
	<u>24,174</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>24,174</u>	<u>22,813</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>186,801</u>	<u>6,966</u>	<u>88,599</u>	<u>282,366</u>	<u>188,255</u>

## 3. Resources expended

Missionary and charitable giving (see note 10 )	2,894		5,918	8,812	7,631
3a. Church activities					
Ministry:					
Parish	59,646			59,646	57,690
Willesden	29,554			29,554	27,150
Assistant Priest	4,152			4,152	
Staff expenses	5,107			5,107	7,387
Church running expenses	11,986	4,249	5,760	21,995	19,024
Hall and Parish room	15,875	5,316	2,850	24,041	10,924
Services and resources	9,403			9,403	12,645
Parish News	2,096			2,096	1,698
Property upkeep	4,793			4,793	5,199
Churchyard and upkeep	2,600			2,600	1,566
Youth work costs	21,408		303	21,711	17,579
Holiday club	1,184			1,184	1,126
Administration	16,740			16,740	15,181
Bank charges	821			821	
Minibus	1,409			1,409	1,411
Other	916			916	2,822
	<u>187,690</u>	<u>9,565</u>	<u>8,913</u>	<u>206,168</u>	<u>181,402</u>
Investment outgoings					
Property upkeep	1,074	2,940		4,014	
Total resources	<u>191,658</u>	<u>12,505</u>	<u>14,831</u>	<u>218,994</u>	<u>189,033</u>

#### 4. Staff costs

	2008	2007
Within Youth work Costs, Church Administration Costs and Assistant Priest are:		
Salaries and Employer's National Insurance	32,305	22,400
Employer's Pension Contributions	1,619	1,324
Total	<u>33,924</u>	<u>23,724</u>

During the year the PCC employed a youth minister and an administrator, both part-time

Payments to PCC members

The two Readers, Mrs Ann Kentfield and Mrs Margaret Nicholson were granted a total of £1,000

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them, or related to them, or related parties.

#### 5. Fixed Assets

	2008	2007
(a) Tangible		
Freehold land and buildings at valuation	261,984	261,984
Additions at cost	355,436	-
Disposals at valuation	<u>(261,984)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>355,436</u>	<u>261,984</u>

A surplus over valuation of £17,147 was realised on the disposal of 99, High Street

The Freehold land and buildings comprise a house in Tanworth Close made available to a member of staff, purchased in June 2008.

	2008	2007
(b) Investments		
Market value 1st January 2008	65,274	71,611
Unrealised loss on revaluation	<u>(20,375)</u>	<u>(6,337)</u>
Market value 31st December 2008	<u>44,899</u>	<u>65,274</u>

The investments are in the CBF Investment Fund and the Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund)

#### 6. Debtors (Unrestricted Funds)

Tax recoverable	6,607	19,000
Other debtors	<u>495</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>7,102</u>	<u>20,000</u>

#### 7. Liabilities

Amounts falling due within one year:

Accruals	1,070	5,687
House Fund Loans	18,500	1,000
Other Creditors	<u>837</u>	<u>1,970</u>
	<u>20,407</u>	<u>8,657</u>

#### 8. Analysis of net assets by fund [£]

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Funds
Tangible fixed assets		109,838	245,598	355,436
Investment fixed assets		44,899		44,899
Current assets	1,991	20,833	25,778	48,602
Current liabilities	<u>(1,907)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(17,500)</u>	<u>(20,407)</u>
	<u>84</u>	<u>174,570</u>	<u>253,876</u>	<u>428,530</u>

#### 9. Funds

	Bal fwd 01-Jan-08	Income	Expenditure	Losses (unrealised)	Transfers	Bal fwd 31-Dec-08
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund						
General	3,200	186,801	<u>(191,658)</u>		1,741	84
Designated Fund						
Maintenance	29,609	3,197	<u>(12,505)</u>	<u>(20,375)</u>	45,000	44,926
House Reserve	129,859	6,457			<u>(29,875)</u>	106,441
Working Capital	18,500					18,500
150 Anniversary	934				<u>(934)</u>	
Future Projects		3,769			934	4,703
Other*	<u>1,741</u>				<u>(1,741)</u>	
	<u>180,643</u>	<u>13,423</u>	<u>(12,505)</u>	<u>(20,375)</u>	<u>13,384</u>	<u>174,570</u>
Restricted Funds						
House	177,125	*83,598			<u>(15,125)</u>	245,598
Mission and charity		5,918	<u>(5,918)</u>			
Sports	5,814	222	<u>(303)</u>			5,733
Projects 2008		9,280	<u>(8,610)</u>			670
Discretionary	<u>1,604</u>	<u>271</u>				<u>1,875</u>
	<u>184,543</u>	<u>*99,289</u>	<u>(14,831)</u>		<u>(15,125)</u>	<u>253,876</u>

\* Includes £10,690 realised gain on property disposal

Consequent on the receipt of gifts of over £84,000 to fund the cost of a replacement Parish House, the PCC approved the reversal of last year's transfer of £45,000 allocated into the House Reserve Fund from the Maintenance Fund which is no longer required. The allocation of the existing cumulative revaluation surplus on 99, High Street of £90,000 has been reviewed and adjusted, increasing by £15,125 the Designated amount and reducing the Restricted amount, whilst the further surplus on disposal of £15,737 has been allocated as a gain in the incoming resources statement under the respective Funds. The balance on 150 Anniversary Fund has been transferred into the Fund for Future Projects and £1,741 of the balance on other designated funds transferred into unrestricted funds. \* A balance of £122 has been re-stated and reclassified as a creditor. The restricted Sports fund raised from youth football is being used to meet the obligations of the Church, together with the School, to maintain the Jubilee Field. The Projects 2008 reflect the cost of refurbishment of the Lady Chapel and of the Cloisters kitchen met from two generous donations.

## 10. Charitable and other donations

The PCC made grants totalling £8,812 from its funds and from special collections and fund raising events. Additionally, £1,978 was raised on behalf of other beneficiaries from special collections and fund raising and passed on directly to them. The main beneficiaries were:-

	£ PCC
London Diocesan Board for Schools	892
Angola London Mozambique Association	935
James House	400
Sight Savers	400
Watford New Hope Trust	466
Bishop of Willesden's Discretionary Fund	522
Friends of Diocese of Brasilia	1,407
Northwood Live at Home Scheme	190
Orphaid	490
Bach Chiltern Hundreds Choir	457
Mengo Hospital Uganda	800
Lynda Jackson	360
Paul Strickland	300
LICC	300
Watford Peace Hospice	300
Templeton Trust	300
Water Aid	300
Leprosy Mission	300
Starfish Malawi	300
Workaid	300
	<b>Other</b>
Christian Aid	1,196
USPG	247
Mission to Seafarers	536

## 3. Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity Northwood

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December, 2008 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the 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 s.43 (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 this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.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 accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 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 Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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.

*Mrs M Anthony, FCA  
26 March 2009*

*166 Northwood Way  
Northwood  
Middlesex HA6 1RB*

## 4. Budget Financial Statements for the Year 2009

	2009			Total Funds	2008 Total Funds
	General	Desig- nated	Restricted		
2a. Voluntary income					
Planned giving	96,000			96,000	96,810
Open plate collections	12,000			12,000	11,010
Gift aid Tax recoverable	26,000			26,000	28,816
Donations and appeals	7,500			7,500	17,459
Stewardship challenge	6,520			6,520	
	<u>148,020</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>148,020</u>	<u>154,095</u>
2b. Activities for generating funds					
Fund raising events	8,000	3,000	3,000	14,000	84,554
Holiday club	1,000			1,000	1,023
Other funds generated	1,500		300	1,800	1,399
	<u>10,500</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,300</u>	<u>16,800</u>	<u>86,976</u>
2c. Investment income					
Interest	750	2,800	21	3,571	4,988
Property rent	8,400			8,400	6,215
	<u>9,150</u>	<u>2,800</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>11,971</u>	<u>11,203</u>
2d. Income from church activities					
Parish news	3,250			3,250	2,496
Fees payable to the PCC	3,500			3,500	3,453
Hall and Parish room	16,500			16,500	18,225
	<u>23,250</u>			<u>23,250</u>	<u>24,174</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>190,920</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>3,321</u>	<u>200,041</u>	<u>276,448</u>
<b>3. Resources expended</b>					
Missionary and charitable giving (see note 10 )	1,500	3,000		4,500	2,894
3a. Church activities					
Ministry:					
Parish	59,646			59,646	59,646
Willesden	29,554			29,554	29,554
Assistant Priest	8,750			8,750	4,152
Staff expenses	6,000			6,000	5,107
Church running expenses	13,500	3,000		16,500	21,995
Hall and Parish room	11,500			11,500	24,041
Services and resources	9,750			9,750	9,403
Parish News	2,250			2,250	2,096
Property upkeep	2,270			2,270	4,793
Churchyard and upkeep	2,000			2,000	2,600
Youth work costs	22,250		500	22,750	21,711
Holiday club	1,000			1,000	1,184
Administration	17,000			17,000	16,740
Bank charges	700			700	821
Minibus	1,750			1,750	1,409
Other	500			500	916
	<u>188,420</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>191,920</u>	<u>206,168</u>
Investment outgoings					
Property upkeep	1,000			1,000	4,014
Total resources expended	<u>190,920</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>197,420</u>	<u>213,076</u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u>nil</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>2,821</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>63,371</u>

## 5. Parish Registers

⚠ Baptisms	25
⚠ Admission to Holy Communion	9
⚠ Reception into the Church of England	1
⚠ Confirmations	9
⚠ Weddings	9
⚠ Funerals	5

## 6. Harrow Deanery Synod

Masterminded by our Vicar as the Area Dean, there have been three good meetings of the Synod this year:

- ⚠ In July, here at Holy Trinity, a special Eucharist and an inspirational sermon from Sheenagh Burrell about ALMA, at its 10th birthday - a real two-way channel of care and prayer. (Some of you may remember Sheenagh when she came to talk about Jubilee 2000.)
- ⚠ In October we met over in St. Lawrence Whitchurch, with a talk from Biblelands Charity and Aid Organisation, working to give pockets of hope amid all the problems of the Holy Land, and the source of some delightful artefacts, like the loaves and fishes dish we now use at Encounter.
- ⚠ In March, at St. Andrew Roxbourne, a busy interactive presentation about Christianity and the Workplace: an evening to open up all sorts of issues. Do borrow our copy of Mark Greene's book 'Supporting Christians at Work' and read more.

Synod meetings, of course, attend regularly to ongoing Deanery matters - news from the wider Synods (Diocesan and General), and the Deanery's projects of social concern: the Hillside Trust grants and the Harrow Bereavement Care scheme. Although we don't see too much of these at work (Harrow Deanery being obviously mostly involved with things in Harrow borough), it is really important to support outreach into the community wherever it is actually located.

As always, if you would like to know more or have any questions, do buttonhole any of our Synod members: Nigel Mundy, Brian Watkins, Nigel Washbourn, Margaret Nicholson, Ann Kentfield.

*Ann Kentfield*

## 7. Assistant Priest

It has been a joy to become part of such a welcoming community at Holy Trinity. It feels like being swept up by a great crowd who are travelling to a celebration! Maybe that is a good picture of a Christian community, living the Resurrection life: Life is not dull and one is never quite sure what you will meet together on the way.

I have begun to address some of the challenges presented to me at my interview, although in some areas I am still trying to discover where we are being led together in the Holy Spirit. I have thoroughly enjoyed taking communion on a regular basis to James House, Denville Hall and Dora, listening to the great wealth of people's experience. The pastoral visiting group and I have shared a number of social events together where we have begun to build up relationships of mutual support which I hope will continue to develop.

The Monday healing group have generously moved one meeting a month to Tuesday so that I can join them and, together, we have instigated a monthly healing service which takes place one Sunday a month at 11.45am in the Lady Chapel. These have been times of peace and renewal for all involved. We are all planning to go together on a healing pilgrimage in May to Pennant Melangell, a healing centre in Wales.

We have also started a "coming home time" service for mums and toddlers, fortnightly on a Tuesday at 2.30pm. This is an informal time when we enjoy singing, prayers, stories and activities before older siblings are picked up from school. It has grown steadily from 3 or 4 toddlers on the first day to over 12 children on subsequent dates. We may try to extend this to including older brothers and sisters as they come out of school - but that is in the future!

Jog with Jesus is an exercise class we have started on Wednesday mornings at 8.30 before school starts. Children, parents and Holy Trinity Staff are put through their paces by Kevin before the day begins. Come and join us, its great fun and good for you too!

After Easter, we shall have a speed questioning session on a Sunday evening when people can come and ask the ministry team any question on faith that has been puzzling them. This will be followed by four services of Christian enquiry when we shall look at some of the subjects raised in our questioning evening. To add to this, during Lent we have looked at what it is to have the mind of Christ from three different perspectives - as priests of God, as philosophers and as Christian therapists.

Looking to the future, I hope to build on one of the challenges presented to me at interview which was to expand and build up the spirituality of Holy Trinity Church. If you have any suggestions or questions you would like to ask please come and talk to me. I am only too glad to listen

*Elaine Dando*

## 8. Youth Report

**Fries** – the Fries youth group continues to go well with new members attending as others move through the age group and are now too old to attend. Some of these young people have no other connections with our church. Our aim is to invite the young people to come along on Sundays too for Seekers or Pathfinders and in this way maintain an ongoing connection with the church and it has been encouraging to see increasing signs of this happening.

One comment that has been made is that there is a very good atmosphere between the young people attending the group with positive relationships being forged, both between themselves and with the leadership team. Our programme consists of some sessions here at the church and some trips out to bowling, cinema, night treks to the Lido etc.

**Pathfinders** – the Sunday morning Pathfinder groups are well attended. When we started the Shape we wondered if it would affect attendances on Sunday mornings but this has not been the case. The older group have been covering series of sessions set out in Youthwork magazine - last term we studied a series on David – plus preparation to come into church and receive communion. This group is led by Ana and myself.

**Young Pathfinders** – Alice, Nikky Oyekanmi and Miriam lead this group. Again it is well attended and lively – this group is not always easy to lead but they are eager and enthusiastic. They have been following material from Scripture Union – the same curriculum as the younger children.

**Junior Church – Connect / Scramblers / Crèche** – attendances have picked up recently again. Groups come together at the start of the session for worship led by different members of the congregation. This has proved very popular. We have recently extended the team of worship leaders to include the Vicar, Scrambler leaders and Young Pathfinders. We have managed to recruit more leaders and both teams are working well together under the leadership of Lesley Southcott and Sarah Teboul. We have recently managed to relaunch a crèche with a rota of leaders and they will be continuing to join with the other groups for worship whilst also following their own age-specific version of the Scripture Union material.

**Shape** – Since September I have joined this group in a leadership capacity (from Seekers) alongside Ana. The young people are really supportive of each other and there has been an increasing depth to the discussions and prayers that comprise part of the evening. We are indebted to the Orr family for giving up their lounge on a Sunday evening to the large group of energetic teenagers! We have lots of fun, food and games but it has also been encouraging to see the young people developing the depth of their Christian faith over the year.

**Family Service / Encounter** – these services held on the first and third Sundays respectively allow families to worship together in a less formal setting in the hall. They are both very well attended – the hall is often packed out – and incorporate an interactive, multi-media style of teaching and worship that is well received and appreciated. Several children and young people are involved every month in the services in music, reading, drama and so on.

**Seekers** – Alice has done a great job taking on this group with Miriam Kendrick from London School of Theology. Again it is increasingly well attended and fits a niche of providing the 10 – 13s in the church with a place to meet and develop a positive Christian peer group, supporting each other whilst also exploring and discussing aspects of the Christian life. This group provides another of the stepping stones into church from Fries referred to above.

**Weekend Away** – we are taking a group of the young people away on a camp at the end of April and will be having a mixture of activities and opportunities to grow closer together and to God in their time away. Please pray for the group that this would be a really positive time.

**Saturday football** – this continues and although links with the church are not especially strong there are a few more children from the church and school attending the sessions now. Alice has begun bringing coffee to share with the parents that are waiting during the sessions.

**Schools** – Alice and I are involved in a range of lunchtime and after school clubs. One of the most popular is Bible Club held on Wednesday lunchtimes where we have two groups of children come up to the church for a relevant, Bible Study. Along with Richard we take regular assemblies and services in the school and church for different sections of the school. I will be accompanying the children from Holy Trinity on their school journeys to Wales and Dorset again this year and providing support to the teachers and spiritual input for the children.

I have introduced Holy Trinity School to Chris Knott from the Starfish Malawi project and they are now officially linked with a school in Malawi. Chris was due to spend a day at the school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb after he had visited evensong and Shape on the Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> (unfortunately it then snowed and the school was closed!). His day at the school will be rescheduled soon.

I have also led two sessions this term at the Christian Union at Northwood College called SPARK.

**Children and Communion** – last July 12 children completed the course of instruction leading up to first communion and they received their first communion at a special service on 6<sup>th</sup> July. This was a wonderful culmination and celebration of their commitment to this course and our inclusion of children into the heart of our worshipping community. There will be a new course starting after Easter this year for children in school year 3 and above.

**Confirmation** – five young people from the church were confirmed this year – whilst this number is down on previous years this reflects the new policy of admitting children to communion and generally offering confirmation at a later age. We had some excellent sessions of preparation during the course. We are aiming to organise a special party and service for all those who have been confirmed during my 8 years here in the autumn.

**Church Party** – a party was held at the church on 7<sup>th</sup> March for all the children involved in our work here at HT. It was a great time of fun and celebration of their involvement in the church and our children's activities.

**Sport** - several of the young people from the church and teams from the school have achieved some good successes in sport over the last year. In some cases I have been able to support them with coaching and training, whilst others from the church have provided an amazing network of background support and prayer to help them in their achievements.

**Leaders** - as usual a big debt of thanks goes out to all the volunteers and leaders who make the varied and interesting programme of children's and youth work that we do at HT possible. As leaders we work hard but we also gain a lot from our work with the young people too. If you'd like to be part of our ever-expanding team even if it's just in an occasional capacity please do speak to me.

*Kevin Draper*

## 9. Assistant Youth Worker

**Seekers** - Since starting in September, I have taken responsibility, with Miriam Kendrick, for the younger youth group, Seekers, which has grown to be a group of young people who seek to know God better and support each other in friendship and prayer. We meet on a Sunday evening, and begin with a time where we can discuss issues that are relevant to being a young Christian, and how we can actively seek God in our daily lives. We generally talk about a wider theme, for example, at the moment we are thinking about the fruits of the spirit. It has been really encouraging to see that these young people are so full of questions and a desire to know God more. This discussion is followed by a time of prayer where we pray for each other and for world issues. After this quiet time, we have a very noisy time of playing games, eating and talking together.

**Young Pathfinders** - On Sunday mornings Nikky Oyekanmi and I lead the younger Pathfinders; they are an incredibly lively group and always have a lot to say! We follow material from Scripture Union which is the same programme as the children in Junior Church but which looks at the same bible passages in more depth. We always try to end with a time when the young people can pray for each other which I think has really helped to bring them closer as a group.

**School** - During the week I spend some of my time in school with various clubs including, netball, Bible club and art club which has been great, Bible club is particularly fantastic as each week I am astounded by the number of children who want to spend their lunchtime learning about the Bible! At art club I am hoping that the children will be able to contribute to the exciting installation that will be up at the Church throughout Holy Week as a part of the '*northwood + northwood hills stns*' community arts project. What can I say about netball... it keeps me fit and is easier to understand than football!

At School I also take on one of their OEKOS groups which are groups of different ages throughout Key Stage 2. On Wednesday afternoons I do Godly Play with a small group of children where we play out some of Jesus' parables and talk about what they mean and why they are important.

**Weekend Away** - I am looking forward to the Youth Weekend Away in April where some of the young people will retreat to a nearby scout camp for a weekend filled with exciting activities and spiritual input, I hope that this will be a valuable time for them to know God more and come home revitalized in their faith. Please pray that God will use it to bring them closer to Him.

*Alice Simpson*

## 10. Music Department

2008/09 has been a good year for music at Holy Trinity. The Choir Fair yielded up some interest, and we welcomed Christine and Miriam to our number. We are, of course, always looking to welcome new members, and I would strongly encourage anyone who is interested in the choir or has some ideas for reaching out to new people, to get in touch with me.

The bands are still going strong. I would like to extend my thanks to John and Michael for their hard work in that department. New interest in joining, particularly in the Encounter Band, is always welcome here too. I have conducted the Encounter Band at several of their services in the church hall, and have really enjoyed the experience.

I have also considerably revised the music pages for the website, so please do have a look at that. Any helpful suggestions welcome. I very much hope that music will continue to be a strong part of worship at Holy Trinity, and would encourage anyone who might be interested in getting involved not to be shy, but to come and talk to me about it.

*Richard Bates (Director of Music)*

## **11. Family Service Band**

The Family Service Band comprises various electric instruments and two vocalists. It leads the Family Service in the Hall on the first Sunday of the month and occasionally features in the church.

The repertoire is wide (hymns, songs and chants) and the Band has been in operation in its current format for over 10 years.

We proudly released a CD in 2004 which is available via the Parish Office (at a very good price all of which goes to Church funds).

We are always on the lookout for new talent – so if you have a yen to dust off the instrument languishing in the loft have a chat with one of us.

We held an “Open Day” this year with tea party concert – a sort of instant Christmas music event. This was hugely enjoyed by the Band and those that came to join in. Did you know Alice Simpson played the saxophone? You do now.

We look forward to many more years of worship and music at Holy Trinity.

*Simon Brown*

## **12. Encounter Band**

This group of talented young musicians came together in 2007 to provide the music for worship at what was then a new and exciting venture called ‘Encounter Communion’. As this third season reaches its mid-term it is worthwhile reflecting upon the success of the service format in the hall as well as the contribution made by the band. In the congregation can be seen people of all ages, some escaping from the more formal service in the church next door and others attending specifically for this ‘alternative’ approach to celebration of the Sacraments.

The band has done well in proving that pre-recorded music, although simple to organise, is not necessarily preferable. Holy Trinity continues in its tradition of good live music. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated and enthusiastic young people as arrangements of new worship songs are presented at rehearsal each month. The band’s repertoire now exceeds 40 worship songs in addition to the ten carols performed at the recent Christmas services.

The balance of two or three violins and a keyboard playing upper harmonies, together with a cello, clarinet and saxophones providing supporting lower harmonies and rhythms, seems well suited to

the modern worship songs becoming more and more familiar at this service. The sound is a striking contrast to the expected electric guitars and drums so often associated with modern youth worship today. The regular contributors continue to be Megan, Millie and Freya Bowen, Anne and David Orr, Isobel Cotterell and, when other arrangements allow, Emma Teboul. Increasing fusion between the Encounter Band and the Family Service Band now occurs with the ‘all-age’ services scattered through the year.

Invaluable musical support from Sallie Bowen and technical support from Michael Coates needs to be acknowledged, as does the beneficence of Simon Brown for the PA system and microphones. We were sorry to lose the contribution of Matthew Greene (violin) earlier this year but it cannot be expected that these young people will be around for ever! Whilst it would be unrealistic to expect this group to stay together for much longer let us hope that ‘new blood’ can be found in order to replace those members who will inevitably ‘move on’ with their lives in due course.

*John Spencer*

## **13. Plant and Hall Committee**

During the last year the main project has been the refurbishment of the Lady Chapel. All the gilding was cleaned and renovated and the whole area redecorated. We are extremely grateful for a very generous donation covering the total cost given as a Memorial to a member of their family.

A new Nursery was built at the School and this involved an extension to their playground with a new pathway and fencing alongside the Parish Room garden. Security lighting and a safety mirror for the pathway have been provided.

Discussions are also ongoing for ways of introducing a ‘Welcome Area’ by the South door as well as an extended floor area on the same level as the Chancel. There will be an opportunity for a full and open discussion organised by Richard, our Vicar, covering costs and details outlined by Mr Hirst the Architect.

In December the Church and Vicarage Roof were inspected as recommended by the London Diocesan Fund. We had the necessary Church repairs done in February.

There have been several comments on the Church heating and its efficiency and there are discussions to try to effect an improvement.

In the last year The Parish Room kitchen has been fitted with new fittings and equipment and again we are very grateful for a donation covering the cost. We also carried out necessary work on the kitchen in the upper flat.

The Parish Room continues to be well used and Sue Boulton in the Parish Office deals with the hiring and charges.

External decorating has also been carried out around the Hall. Two new fuse boxes with earth leakage safety have been fitted covering all the Hall area.

Our grateful thanks to Ian Carr for the high level of revenue coming to our Church through the Hall hire charges. Ian retired in February after twenty years and we very much appreciate all that he has done. In future all Hall bookings and enquiries will be handled through the Church Office.

Please will those using our facilities help by cleaning up afterwards, in particular the floor areas and emptying the rubbish bins in the kitchen. These are properly marked for rubbish and re-cycling and should be used as instructed.

My thanks to the Committee, in particular John Barraclough and those who have helped with maintaining these very important facilities for our Church.

*Nigel Washbourn*

## **14. Mission and Outreach Committee**

The Mission and Outreach Committee has continued working on the production of a Mission Action Plan which has now been completed and approved by the PCC. It will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Church Meeting on 21 April 2009. The process began with a questionnaire which was sent out to those on the Electoral Roll. The results were then analysed and Holy Trinity's MAP emerged from the common themes that had appeared. Our hope is that the congregation will embrace this Plan and continue to "be open to God, be inclusive of all and serve one another". If anybody would like to get more involved in any aspect of the Mission Action Plan please ring me on 01923 825826.

*Leigh Ralphs*

## **15. Charity Committee**

The Charity Committee distributed a total of £3,000 this year. This was, as usual, divided among 5 local and 5 international charities including two charities based at Mt Vernon – Paul Strickland and Lynda Jackson, "Stars" at the Peace Hospice in Watford (for the second year), WaterAid, the Leprosy Mission, Starfish Malawi, Ophads and Workaid. These gifts, taken with the other charity fundraising during the year (Christian Aid week, the money raised for Mengo at the Retro Live in November, the Autumn Bazaar, Mission to Seafarers and many more: see page 14 for a complete list) help us in our aim of bringing Parish charitable giving up to 5% of our income.

During the year the Committee supervised the sorting and distribution of harvest gifts both from the congregation and Holy Trinity School – but the Mums of Holy Trinity School volunteered to do most of the hard work! Thank you! These gifts and a very generous £500 collection at the Harvest Festival Service all went to Watford New Hope Trust.

Once again our grateful thanks to all those who brought gifts to the Church and to those (in addition to the School Mums) who helped in the vital work of sorting and distributing them.

*Simon Brown*

## **16. Fete**

The Holy Trinity Family Fete and Barbecue was moved to May this year and the date proved inspired. Glorious weather made it a record-breaking event in all senses.

Northwood College and Holy Trinity School gave superb displays of country dancing and singing respectively to the great enjoyment of performers and audience alike – we hope to see them again in the future. The main innovation for 2008 was a "sit and ride" steam train between 'Car Park Terminus' and 'Vicarage Halt' – an attraction enjoyed by young and old.

Very big thank-yous are due to Nigel Washbourn and Sue Boulton who did virtually all the organisation and to the team on Friday night and Saturday who put up gazebos, stalls signs and bunting.

I would also like to thank all the stallholders, assistants, tea makers, barbecuers, Michael Coates for the PA system, Chris Rogers as compère, everyone who came, everyone who provided prizes, produce or goods.

The 2009 Fete and Barbecue will be on 9 May from 12 noon and will follow the same format with, we hope, a few more surprises.

*Simon Brown*

## **17. Communications Committee**

This is a new PCC committee comprising, Sven Beyrich, Sue Boulton, Sally Moore, Andrew Newell, Bob Orr and myself, Carl Landsbert. Our brief is for responsibility for communicating internally and externally and be the "face" of the church and with particular responsibility for the website. As you might appreciate this covers many facets and brings together the very many aspects of our worship and work here at Holy Trinity.

Our main achievement in the past year is that we have re-launched our website at <http://www.htnorthwood.co.uk/>. The main issue is to maintain the content so that it is fresh and interesting and makes people (particularly all of us here at Holy Trinity) to come back again regularly using the website as a focus as the world becomes more and more internet savvy.

With the website launch, we introduced our new corporate identity. Consistency of logo and font use is exceptionally important across the Communications Mix and we have been moving forward so that all the different groups use the (same!) correct letterheads so that letters coming from the church are instantly recognisable together with posters, publications and notices.

This led to the realisation that our new logo could be adapted very easily for the many different communications outlet. See how we change the words after *Holy Trinity* such as with *News*, *Herald*, and *Northwood* next time you see our logo in use. Incidentally, I wonder how many of you actually knew that our weekly service sheet was called the *Herald*? The new re-designed layout with our corporate identity now includes the title of this document within the logo. This relatively easy stylistic change brings a contemporary feel, whilst maintaining readability and tradition. The use of our corporate identity works in both colour and black and white, thus not increasing our

printing costs and gradually it will be introduced across all printed material emanating from Holy Trinity Northwood. Tweaks have already been made to our Parish News and to other leaflets and notices you may have seen recently.

Our next goal is to improve the signage and notice boards. Printing technology means that it is now cost-effective to have properly printed, weather resistant signs that can be easily changed. Work is at hand to introduce the logo to these and to create a range of signs that can be displayed at different times throughout the year.

We plan to make more use of modern technology to keep in touch with our diverse congregation not as an alternative to the existing communication materials but as an alternative that appeals to different audiences and widens our coverage. Exciting ideas such as a podcast will be followed up by our young people whilst a strong emphasis will remain in keeping our Parish News interesting and accessible to all.

Once we are all communicating smoothly we need to outreach more into our local community and this will be in conjunction with the Mission and Outreach committee fulfilling many of the goals in our Mission Action Plan. We need to encourage our groups to generate news and publicity and to help them maximise it. So we can all help and as the Archdeacon, Rachel Treweek said in Elaine's licensing service – we all need to gossip much more!

*Carl Landsbert*

## 18. Sidesmen

There are forty eight Sidesmen at present working on a two month rota and some also do additional duties for Evensong and the 8 o'clock Communion. It is a very important and worthwhile role as we are usually the first to welcome our regular congregation and visitors to our Services.

In the past year we have had several resignations with people moving away and we do need additional volunteers as we are down on numbers. Six new Sidesmen did join us during the year and this was very helpful.

We had an enjoyable informal gathering of Sidesmen on Sunday June 22nd in the evening to discuss various aspects of our duties and any improvements. Our next evening together will be Sunday November 15th, please make a note of the date.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to join us, in particular to help with the Baptisms.

In the meantime may I thank all those who have given their continued support over the last year.

*Nigel Washbourn*

## 19. The Healing Prayer Group

The Healing Prayer Group meets regularly on a Monday Evening, rotating around our homes. We meet to pray together in Jesus' name for anyone who seems to be in need. We are made aware of such need through personal contact, through names that are mentioned during intercessions on Sundays, through people completing yellow prayer cards in church or placing requests for prayers on the Prayer Board in church, and from people who come for prayer during the 10am Communion service each Sunday. The names of those for whom we pray are kept confidential within the group.

We believe that most of us need God's healing power whether it is for physical, emotional or psychological reasons. We pray for more than just the sick, therefore, and we pray too for those experiencing loneliness, unhappiness, depression, bereavement, unemployment, relationship difficulties or difficulties at work.

Those we pray for changes over time but it is not unusual for the Group to be lifting 50 names to God on a Monday evening. Nevertheless we are delighted and feel privileged to be able to pray for others and would encourage anyone who needs prayers, or knows of others who would benefit from prayers to use any of the following methods: -

- ⚠ Speak to a member of the Ministry team, Richard, Elaine, Ann, Margaret or Kevin;
- ⚠ Complete a (Yellow) Prayer Card which are available in Church;
- ⚠ Place a request on the Prayer Board which is situated on the South Wall between the South Door and the Lady Chapel;
- ⚠ You can e-mail a request to [prayers@htnorthwood.co.uk](mailto:prayers@htnorthwood.co.uk) ; and
- ⚠ You can come to the back of Church after receiving Communion to be prayed for by a member of the Healing Prayer Group.

During the year Elaine has started to attend our meetings once a month and has started to develop a healing service, which was initially held at 6pm, but with effect from January 2009 has now become a regular monthly service at 11.45am on the third Sunday of each month. These are quiet contemplative services, nobody is expected to share their problems if they do not want to, and there is the opportunity for "laying on of hands" towards the end of the service for those who wish to participate. If you have not yet had the opportunity to experience these services yet I would urge you to come and see for yourself.

*Bary Southcott*

## 20. House Groups

During Lent and Advent each year study groups are held when a specific subject is addressed. We hope that in meeting together with members from other churches in Northwood we can widen our understanding through sharing different aspects of the subject and how they relate within our worshipping and working lives. This is not always as serious as it may sound – there are many lively, amusing and entertaining discussions – not forgetting tea/coffee and biscuits!! Lent 2009 there are three groups studying different aspects from Biblical and other sources in the preparation for Holy Week and Easter. During Advent we looked at different subjects that were compiled from available resources. If anyone is interested in joining a group next Advent or Lent you will be very welcome.

*Margaret Nicholson*

## 21. Events - A fond farewell to the monthly Parish Lunch

The Christmas Parish Lunch took place on Friday 12 December 2008. A memorable Christmas feast of roast turkey and all the trimmings, trifle too good to be true, wines, coffee, singing entertainment from the pupils of Holy Trinity Church School and presents, lots and lots of presents. For this was the final Parish Lunch and, unbeknown to us, an extraordinarily generous collection had secretly been made amongst the regular lunchers and every member of the kitchen team was presented with a gift.

Of course it is sad when a Church function as well loved and as long lasting as the Parish Lunch finally comes to an end. Those who attended will miss the friendship and the delicious meals, those who have been members of the team over so many years will miss the camaraderie and laughter in the kitchen.

But, to use a modern expression, we all move on. The Lent lunches are different but they serve the same purpose; an opportunity to meet and to share. And we are sure that, with the ever growing family support and enthusiasm that our Vicar has so successfully developed in the last few years, there will be new ideas and new events.

*Sue Gwynne-Evans and Deidre Page*

## 22. Flowers

Many thanks to a very supportive flower team. The church has looked most attractive from week to week due to their individual efforts. I must add that their work is achieved by their willingness to purchase flowers at their own expense. As most of our flowers sadly come from Holland the cost has risen owing to the poor exchange rate of the euro. Unfortunately the result of the boxes has not been as good as in passed years. This is understandable knowing the present financial climate. It isn't all doom and gloom because we ladies do enjoy what we do and really get a lot of pleasure being altogether for the three festivals - Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

In order for Flowers in Church to flourish new recruits are essential. All necessary help will be given to any candidate if need.

In my report I must give due praise to Jean Steed for the sterling work she does on behalf of the flower rota. She puts in a great deal of effort into her task. Once the rota is set it doesn't stop there as her work is still on going.

Thanks to Hazel Gammage who ran the Mothering Sunday event of posies. It was a delight to see so much colour in church at a time when we see so little there.

The standard of our flower arranging is good. We have had much praise from those outside our church family as well as those within.

*Aurie Anderson*

## 23. Church Cleaning

*And now a plea from the unsung heroes of our congregation....*

The seven ladies and one gentleman, named in last year's report, have all continued their labours on most Thursday afternoons in 2008. I am sure the congregation appreciates their efforts, but if there are any others who would like to take part, they will be very welcome. We usually start by 1.30pm for about an hour or so.

*Alice Read*

## 24. Talking Point

Every Friday morning nine ladies meet to study the bible. We use bible study guides from many different sources and this term we are using a guide called "Praying the Psalms".

Although we spend most of our time delving into bible verses and talking about what they mean to us today, we discuss many other topics involving our lives as Christians.

Our group has not only provided us with a deeper insight to the bible but provides each of us with fellowship and friendships that reach far beyond our Friday meetings.

*Charis Burland*

## 25. Churches Together in Northwood

How easy it is to be so involved and supportive of our own Church that we become removed from an awareness of being part of the whole of Christ's ministry in Northwood and indeed the whole of God's kingdom. Yet what message does that send out to non church goers? So it is good to be reminded occasionally of some of the things going on in other Northwood churches, and of what we actually do together.

Apart from welcoming our own Rev. Elaine Dando to Holy Trinity, the Rev. Sue Male is the new minister at The Methodist Church, Rev. Helen Wilkinson at Eastbury, and the Rev. Father Philip Barnes has been appointed vicar at St. Edmund the King. St. John's URC is awaiting a replacement for Rev. Carole Elphick who has been supporting the congregation over a rather long vacancy.

CTN provides two main opportunities where we can grow in fellowship and understanding.

We start each year with a **joint service** during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and this was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at St. John's URC. The title was "Reconcile Your People" and it was moving to realise that the same planned service and words were being held throughout Christendom. The Preacher was Dr. Simon Steer, Principal of LST.

The second event in the summer varies between a Songs of Praise at LST and a Fun Day at Merchant Taylors' School. Last year Richard compèred the Songs of Praise and expertly encouraged people from each church to explain why they had chosen a special hymn. The responses were both entertaining and inspiring and the singing was supported by the Yiewsley and West Drayton Brass Band.

The **Fun Day**, this year will especially appeal to the younger element when, not only will there be a Bouncy Castle, but the chance to play lots more games. For the less energetic, you bring your deckchair and picnic and snooze or chat hopefully in the sunshine. The date is **Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>** from 12 noon so please put it in your diaries now.

CTN also:

- ⚙ coordinates ecumenical Lent study groups. A chance to learn the same truths from different perspectives.
- ⚙ is involved in organising Christian Aid collections which will be from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May this year.
- ⚙ supports the Northwood Live at Home and encourages Fair Trade.
- ⚙ has designed a Welcome pack full of helpful information, to be handed to all new residents observed to move into Northwood, which members can find in Sue's office.
- ⚙ is involved in other Christian initiatives including the Northwood Missionary Auction, The Women's World Day of Prayer, The Coffee Shop at Emmanuel, and others at the Methodist Church and Fairfield and various monthly lunches open to older people.

I am sure there are also many other ways the love of God manifests itself in Northwood. Alleluia. To find out more visit our website [www.churchestogethernorthwood.info](http://www.churchestogethernorthwood.info).

I am sorry to end my report with the sad news that David Duncan, CTN chairman for one year, died of a heart attack in March. He was dedicated to CTN having previously chaired it some years ago.

*Hazel Gammage*

## 26. Holy Trinity C E Primary School

The appointment of a permanent Headteacher and the subsequent restructuring of the Senior Leadership Team have brought about an increased level of stability to the school in the last 12 months. A strong focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning and monitoring progress in the core areas of the curriculum have been highly effective. The school received a good judgement in all areas in the Ofsted Inspection in July 2008.

The school has made significant improvements to the learning environment for the youngest children in the school by building our new, state of the art, Nursery class and Foundation Stage outdoor area. All key stage 1 classrooms have been refurbished and with the support of Parents and Governors, the playgrounds have been significantly improved. The school is extremely grateful to the entire church community for their support and patience during the works.

A key strength of the school is the personal care that is taken to ensure that every child develops spiritually, culturally and morally. The close link with Holy Trinity Church, the strong vision of the Leadership Team and the commitment of all staff ensures that the Christian ethos permeates the

full life of the school. The school was delighted to receive an 'outstanding' judgement in our Diocesan Inspection in October 2008. The inspector commented on the centrality of Christianity and worship in the life of the school. There have been a number of additional aspects to our worship that have been introduced recently and these have included a communion service for children in Key Stage 2. We are grateful to Alice and Kevin who support many of our activities, especially 'oekos' our social action groups and the much valued Bible Club.

Music remains a real strength of the school. Our Choir won the Borough competition this year and it has been a great joy for our school choir to come and sing at Church events.

The number of prospective parents making applications to the school has increased significantly and is evidence of the many recent improvements. The school has worked hard to raise our profile in the local community. Our new website, [www.holytrinitynorthwood.org](http://www.holytrinitynorthwood.org), is proving to be very successful in communicating our values and vision to the wider community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Holy Trinity community for their help and support. We look forward to working in partnership over the next year.

*Daniel Norris - Headteacher*

## 27. Toddler Club Report 2008

The Toddler club has met in the hall every Tuesday and Thursday during term time, providing a clean, safe, fun, educational and friendly environment for pre school children and their parent or carer. Each group allows a maximum of 40 families on their registers, enabling children to have a fun and stimulating morning out, while Mums, Dads, Childminder, Granny – whoever they bring with them! - can enjoy the company of their child or the other adults. Weekly attendance is normally between 25 and 30 families. Considering this means at least one adult, sometimes two, and often at least two children each, the mornings can become very noisy and busy! We also serve as an outreach for Holy Trinity Church, making the magazine available and publicising all 'special' services.

We are inspected by the Pre-School Learning Alliance, who is always very complimentary about our facilities and friendly atmosphere.

The two groups have continued to support Priscilla in Brazil to train as a nurse and are pleased to see she has nearly achieved her goal. Closer to home, we held a cake sale to raise money to run the jar tombola at the parish fete; we donated to the church to cover our expenses in using the hall, and donated the proceeds of our raffles at toddler parties to the neo natal unit at Watford Hospital. We are always keen to support local children's charities, and welcome any suggestions.

We have enjoyed a wide range of commercial visitors this year; please feel free to drop in if you see a visitor advertised that interests you – a list is displayed on our notice board in the hall.

A committee oversees the running of the groups, and we have welcomed several new members recently. We have had to say farewell and thanks to Tracey Lock as treasurer. Thank you to Ann Kentfield for providing our pram services, always noisy, jolly affairs! New faces on the refreshments rota are always welcome, and we are very grateful to all the ladies who keep us supplied with tea and coffee all morning!

*Jenny Bartlett*

## **28. Holiday Club 2008**

Once again Holiday Club was a huge success, we had over 100 children and this year we were able to offer everyone who applied a place. This was made possible by Kevin having a sports group which he took over to the field everyday; they returned each day for the all-together time. Kevin and Richard led Drama and teaching time each day supported by children from our church groups of both Seekers and Shape. This was particularly encouraging as they were so keen to be involved. Sally Shipman did a fantastic job organizing all the craft activities and ladies from our church family served teas, coffees and squash to both leaders and children. What was noticeable this year was how a huge variety of ages were involved and it really felt like the whole church was part of this outreach activity; this is something that we hope to build on again this year.

*Charis Burland*

## **29. 1st Northwood (Holy Trinity) Brownies**

2008 proved to be yet another busy year for the Brownies. We welcomed 5 new Brownies and had a busy term cooking, working on badges and doing Easter Crafts.

Pack holiday had to wait until Spring Bank holiday this year as the school Easter holidays were all different. We stayed in Chesham, travelling around the world as spies. In spite of all the rain we had a lot of fun uncovering an evil plot to stop Brownies doing what they are best at 'good turns'.

During the summer term we also helped at the Church Fete and tested ourselves at our version of the Olympic Games. Some of us had a good but very cold day at 'Going for Gold', a County event held at Willow Tree.

Towards the end of term we discovered some of the difficulties and advantages of working together when we did the Right to Work Together badge. The term ended when Brownies formed a Guard of Honour at Little Owl's Wedding.

In the Autumn 7 new Brownies made their promise and we celebrated Snowy Owl's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We all learned how to tie reef knots and we made Apple crumble. In October we had a spectacular party with lots of food, games and balloons to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The term ended with our annual visit to Denville Hall and joining the District to sing carols outside Waitrose. (This year in aid of Michael Sobell House).

The Brownies have worked hard throughout the year, had lots of fun whilst learning new skills and badges. The pack remains full with a long waiting list.

*Sally Shipman - Brown Owl*

## **30. 1st Northwood (Holy Trinity) Guides**

Apart from our usual activities which have included outside cooking, craft, walks, and a "Picnic in the Park in the Dark" the Guides have had opportunities to work on the Guide programme which involves them planning and leading their own activities for part of the Guide meeting.

The highlight of the year was camp at Blacklands Farm, near East Grinstead where we had the opportunity to climb, abseil, trampoline bungee jump, canoe; and night activities included a treasure hunt with other guide packs on site. The District Camp at Willowtree was an action packed weekend enjoyed by all those who attended. As usual, we joined the district for the annual carol singing outside Waitrose, made the biscuits and sweets for our stall at the Church Fete and attended church parades. If anyone is interested in joining, there are places available. Please come and see us on a Wednesday evening.

*Karen Venables*

## **31. Reading Group**

The Reading Group meets monthly and now has 12 members. It is thanks to them that it has been more of a success than I ever thought it could be when I first had the idea 18 months' ago. Our choice of books has varied considerably; some causing very lively debate, often leading to altering one's opinions and on one occasion one or two of us realised, after discussion, we had liked a book rather more than we thought! It is rare that we all like the same book but we do try and plough through even those books we are not keen on. And, of course, it is an enjoyable social occasion. Our thanks again go to Elizabeth Tothill who kindly orders and collects the books for us from the library.

*Katherine Buss*

## **32. Fairtrade Report**

The past year has seen Holy Trinity's Fairtrade activities continue to thrive. Church goers are becoming more and more accustomed to visiting our stall for their ethically sourced products. Value has been added to this by the use of Fairtrade tea and biscuits for the Sunday morning refreshments. The existence of the stall has continued to encourage awareness of global issues among Holy Trinity's younger members encouraging them to explore their faith in relation to those in less advantageous circumstances – all the while enjoying a bar of chocolate!

The Fairtrade stall once again had a strong presence at the Moor Park fun run again in September last year. Though it is useful to note, blame it on the credit crunch or weather perhaps, that sales were not as high as they were in 2007. However the very presence of the stall at the race, which

attracts hundreds of fun runners, is a good way for Holy Trinity to spread the word about Fairtrade to the wider community.


Over the next few weeks, three events will push Fairtrade further into the spotlight. The first is Fairtrade fortnight starting from 22nd Feb when ours and other stalls in the country will be selling Fairtrade products over a two week period. The second is Lent some church goers will likely pledge to forgo the pleasure of chocolate or coffee perhaps but regaining their sweet tooth once Lent is over. The third is Easter when our members might be inclined to buy Fairtrade chocolate eggs as a festive gift for family and friends during the Easter period.

Through the help of our Tradefair stall here in Holy Trinity, we shall continue to help to improve the lives of millions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America out of poverty.

May I take this opportunity to thank my young helpers, especially Katie, Sian, Rosie and AJ.


*Nikky Oyekanmi*

**The Report, Financial Statements and Activity Reports were adopted by the Parochial Church Council on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Canon Richard Bartlett, Chairman.**



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**Revd Canon Richard Bartlett**



holy trinitynorthwood

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A welcoming community of Christ open to God inclusive of all serving one another