

Diocese of Salisbury

The Parish Church

of

*Saint Mary the Virgin*

Gillingham, Dorset

The Agenda for the Annual Meetings

on

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

together with

**Minutes and Annual Reports**

for the year 2008

# The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Gillingham, Dorset

Agenda for the Annual Meetings to be held on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Vicarage School Room.

## Annual Parish Meeting

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Election of Churchwardens (2)
4. Close of Meeting

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the last meeting : Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008  
(page 3)
2. Elections
  - Parochial Church Council Members  
(12 places, 5 vacancies)
  - Deanery Synod Representatives  
(3 places, 1 vacancy)
  - Sidespersons
  - Independent Examiner
3. Reports
  - PCC Annual Report (presented in this booklet)
  - Electoral Roll Report PCC Sec.
  - Fabric Report (page 19) Mr P. Gray
  - Presentation of the Inventory Mr. P. Gray
  - Financial Report (page 21 ) Mr D. Bryan
  - Adoption of Audited Accounts for 2008
  - Deanery Synod Report (page 22) Mrs C. Barrow
  - Reports of Church Groups (page 23)
4. Any Other Business
5. An Address by the Very Rev. David Frayne
6. Closing Prayers

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and  
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)  
held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 at 7.30pm in the Vicarage  
Schoolroom.**

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## ***Annual Parish Meeting***

### **Those Present:**

31 – Rev. Canon A. Gill, Mr R. Arnold, Miss M. Atkinson, Mrs C. Barrow, Mrs E. Frayne, Mr D. Bryan, Mrs D. Bryan, Mr S. Butler, Mr P. Clarke, Mrs H. Clarke, Mr R. Clarke, Mrs M. Cumberland, Mr P. Cumberland, Mrs M. Gill, Dr. T. Goatham, Miss M. Grant, Mrs J. Hall, Mrs H. Kenway, Mrs E. Nash, Mr J. Nash, Mr. A. Norman, Mrs S. Perrin, Mr J. Porter, Mrs M. Porter, Miss P. Rolph, Mrs M. Sargent, Mr M. Sargent, Mr J. Swain, Mr I. Watson, Mrs K. Watson and Mrs S. Williams,

### **01.08 Opening Prayers**

### **02.08 Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Mr A Clarke, Mrs A Clarke, Mrs M. Gray, Mr P. Gray, Mrs G Harding, Rev. J. Hedges, Mrs J. Loch, Mr C. Parkinson, Mrs G. Parkinson, Mr R. Pike, Mrs A. Pike, Mrs A. Schneider, Mr B. Schneider, Mr J. Smith, Mrs A. Wiles and Mr J. Wiles.

### **Welcome:**

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting. He went on to thank the Churchwardens, Philip Gray and Mary Sargent for their support and encouragement over the past year and for their hard work and faithful endeavours as the Bishop's officers and senior lay leaders in the parish. "The churchwardens carry most of the responsibility, with the incumbent, for all aspects of the ministry and for the fabric of the Church and other property. Churchwardens are called upon to give full commitment to their job/ministry and ultimately to pick up what others often don't do. To be a churchwarden is to hold an ancient and legal office which call for time and faithfulness to God and a desire to serve and give all of oneself. It is a tall order, which Mary and Philip have exercised with proficiency and dedication."

### **03.08 Election of Churchwardnes:**

Nominees: Mr Phillip Andrew Gray, proposed by Mr John Wiles, seconded by Mrs Barbara Powell

Mrs Mary Angela Sargent, proposed by Mrs M Gill, seconded by Mrs Hazel Kenway

There being no other nominations Mr Gray and Mrs Sargent were duly elected.

**The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.38 p.m.**

# ***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***

## **01.08 Minutes of the last meeting**

held on Thursday 15th March 2007 were approved and signed; proposed by Mr P. Clarke, seconded by Mrs C. Barrow and agreed by all present.

## **02.08 Rector's address**

The Rector reminisced that this was the 80<sup>th</sup> APCM of his 33 year ministry and looked back over the years to all of the various officers and groups who had supported both Saint Mary's and himself here in Gillingham and thanked them all for their Christian commitment. He further commented on the many good things that have happened in Saint Mary's. He apologised if any names were missed.

He then went on to his formal challenging address as follows:-

*Acts 5. 17 - 21*

*The Apostles were arrested and put into prison because of their teachings and the miracles they had brought about as a result of their faith: their belief in Jesus Risen from the dead.*

*A messenger from God released them that night but such was their faith that rather than run away for fear of retribution, they went to the Temple and continued to teach about Jesus. The Captain and officers of the guard were so afraid of the people who responded to the story of Jesus that they didn't lay a hand on the Apostles.*

*The Apostles faith was vigorous and passionate:*

- *A faith that feared no harm.*
- *A faith that was not confined to the walls of a church building,*
- *A faith which was free and exuberant.*
- *A faith which flowed from a complete commitment to Jesus Christ the Risen Lord.*

*The situation in which the church finds itself today is, of course, different, but just as dangerous. We and Christians everywhere are called to address our faith and commitment in an unbelieving world: a world in which other faiths are proving to be more dynamic because their followers have a deeper motivation and commitment to God.*

*We are free to live but often lack energy and determination to challenge the prevailing climate of secularism. We are more often than not no better than*

*closet Christians, with no burning inner conviction for the values of God's Kingdom here on earth. Spiritual diffidence borders on timidity as we are perceived to be safe, decent and acceptable. The light and joy of Easter, to say nothing of the raging fire of Pentecost, now merely glows amid ashes and embers of a former vibrant faith.*

*We here at St. Mary's need to ask ourselves how much our Christian faith means to us. What is precious to us? What would we do or choose in preference to our faith, our God, our church??*

*Faced with the choice for what would we sell our soul? For love, money, fame, quiet life?*

*How much time, attention and energy are we ready to devote to the following of Jesus and to the coming of his Kingdom on earth? If we have ever encountered the living God, and experienced the awesome and enchanting reality of God's presence in Christ, then we remain God-haunted for the rest of our lives, restless till we know Him and he totally lives in us.*

*There is no room for the cool and calculating. The overwhelming excitement never leaves us and should drive us on to explore ever more deeply the mystery and the reality that is God and the wonder of his life and love.*

*The Christian religion is much more than moral decency and rarefied delights of personal spiritual experience. It has to do with life itself. Without it we remain among the living dead.*

*For many, Christianity in Britain has become overpoweringly respectable and regarded as an acceptable private pre-occupation. It's something many do on Sundays rather than being challenging in the face of modern morés and occupied with the formation and establishment of the Kingdom of God everyday.*

*Both in the Old Testament and the New Testament God's work has to be done by real flesh and blood people like us, with their own ideas and approach.*

*We of course, all know what needs to be done to put the world to rights!*

*But the word of God shows us that the real enemy, the blockage, is within ourselves. If the Kingdom of God is to come we have to get our own priorities right.*

*We cannot find life and give life to others, unless we are brave enough to live in the present, and for the present: putting the past to rest and letting things be. We have to free ourselves from conformity and looking to others for approval.*

*We are called upon to make the world a more wholesome and fruitful place in our way, fashioned upon the life of Jesus Christ.*

*So as each Eucharist ends with “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”*

- *so we must embrace God’s call to go out and live our faith. Walk with Christ on the road as he did with the first disciples to Emmaus.*
- *Know Him in the Breaking of the Bread*
- *and then do all we can to ensure that we are broken bread for the world, through which our families, our friends and acquaintances will come to know Him too.*

*This calls for a new kind of Church, a church which has new priorities. Back to the genius of the first century Christians, who met together in faith sharing communities, whose members broke bread together (made Eucharist) and shared fully with one another. These early Christians evoked the admiration and response of non-Christians: “See how they love one another.”*

*This we must do, so that people say  
“See how they love one another.”*

*Pray for Older member of St. Mary’s family that they may be mindful of the things they can do as opposed to the things they can’t do!!!*

*For younger members that, despite busy lives, they will always keep a place for God within them: and all the gift of a living Easter Faith.*

## 03.08 Elections

### Elected Membership of the Parochial Church Council:

Four members continue, without need for election, under the 3 year rule, namely:- **Mr David Bryan, Mr Richard Clarke, Mr Jeff Nash and Mrs Sylvia Perrin**

However, we lose 2 members namely, Mr Ian Watson who has completed 3 years service and retires under that same 3 year rule and Mrs Pam Hooker who has chosen to retire because of work commitments.

The nominations for Parochial Church Council membership 2008 are:-

	Proposed by:-	Seconded by:-
<b>Mr Richard John ARNOLD</b>	Mr M. Sargent	Mr S. Butler
<b>Mr Stephen BUTLER</b>	Mr M. Sargent	Mrs S. Williams
<b>Dr. Teresa GOATHAM</b>	Mrs M. Sargent	Mrs D. Bryan
<b>Mrs Joanne HALL</b>	Mr M. Sargent	Mrs S. Williams
<b>Mr Michael SARGENT</b>	Mrs G. Harding	Mr R. Arnold
<b>Mrs Jean WALKLETT</b>	Mrs D. Pike	Mrs C. Barrow
<b>Mr John Edward WILES</b>	Mr P. Gray	Mr B. Powell

These were elected en bloc unopposed. - This makes a total elected membership of 11 out of a permissible 12.

### Membership of Deanery Synod:

Nominations were:	Proposed by:-	Seconded by:-
<b>Mrs Caroline BARROW</b>	Mrs H. Kenway	Mrs J. Walklett
<b>Mrs Margaret PORTER</b>	Mrs M. Sargent	Mr R. Clarke

Both were elected, leaving 1 vacancy.

### Sidespersons:

Mary Sargent, Churchwarden, began by thanking all those who had acted as sidespersons most admirably over the past year – it was much appreciated. Special thanks went to Elizabeth Haynes, Jenny Major, Audrey and Bob Schneider and Pam and Dave Hooker who had decided that it was time for them to stand down.

A list (below) was read of the 22 nominations for the year 2008 – 2009. Their election was proposed by Mrs C. Barrow, seconded by Miss M. Atkinson and agreed by all.

Miss M. Atkinson	Mr C. Parkinson
Mrs R. Batt	Mrs S. Perrin
Miss I. Bourne	Mrs A. Pike
Mrs H. Clarke	Mr B. Rainey
Mr R. Clarke	Mrs R. Rainey
Miss M. Grant	Miss P. Rolph
Mr A. Jeffs	Mrs P. Seymour-Cooke
Mrs H. Kenway	Mrs E. Smith
Mrs J. Palmer	Mr I. Watson
Mr R. Palmer	Mrs K. Watson
Mrs G. Parkinson	Mrs E. West

**Independent Examiner:** Mr D Bryan proposed that a letter be sent to Mr John Hunt, thanking him for his work during the past year and requesting that he continue for the coming year.

Proposed by Mr D. Bryan and seconded by Mr P. Clarke and agreed by all.

## **04.08 Annual Reports**

### **PCC Annual Report:**

Copies of the Annual Report for 2008 were distributed.

Miss M. Atkinson raised the point that the House Study Group based on the 'Drama of Scripture', a very successful and well attended course, had been omitted. The PCC Secretary took full responsibility for this and offered Miss Atkinson his apologies, which were accepted. The PCC Secretary will raise an amendment that both he and the incumbent will initial and add to all reports before further circulation.

Dr. T Goatham mentioned that Churches Together would be losing 2 members and, whilst this was a PCC appointment, she highlighted the point in case anybody not on PCC may be interested to have their name put forward.

### **Electoral Roll Report:**

The PCC Secretary, reporting for the Electoral Roll Officer, said that there were 167 members on the Electoral Roll. There had been 4 deletions at this revision and 11 additions. A further 5 nominations had been received for addition after this meeting. The Rector signed a copy of the roll.

## **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments:**

Mrs Mary Sargent referred to the Fabric Report on page 16 of the Annual Report booklet, highlighting the more major items.

## **Presentation of the Inventory:**

Mrs Sargent reported that the Goods and Ornaments Inventory had been checked and all was in good order. However, again the British Legion and Royal Naval Association standards were with the British Legion.

Mrs Sargent presented the inventory to the Rector for his signature.

**The adoption** of the aforementioned reports was proposed by Miss M. Grant, seconded by Mr S. Butler and agreed by all.

## **Financial Report:**

Copies of the Annual Account Summary were circulated and Mr D Bryan explained the main points. He outlined the significant expense incurred through the various fabric improvements outlined in the fabric report. He also highlighted the minimal increase to our income following the stewardship campaign, the increase in the diocesan share for this current year and the effect on future gift aid tax refunds following changes to the basic rate of taxation (this, in the short term, has fortunately been delayed). He stressed that expenditure is exceeding income and we will only meet the diocesan share by using the recent £10,000 legacy as a buffer to smooth cash flow.

There followed some discussion regarding the use of legacies for the day to day running of the church – it is a PCC policy that this should not be so.

There was also some discussion on the significant increase in office costs which lead on to the apparent ‘very healthy’ profit margin for the church magazine (i.e. income v. expenditure). It was pointed out that these figures were inter-related in many ways and that an analysis of real magazine accounts was in hand.

**Adoption of the Audited Accounts:** for the year 1<sup>st</sup> Jan – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007 Proposed by Mr P. Clarke, seconded by Miss M. Atkinson and carried unanimously. Mr D Bryan was thanked for his hard work as Treasurer during this past year and he, in turn, thanked the independent examiner.

## **Deanery Synod Report:**

Dr T. Goatham presented the Deanery Synod Report, which had been included in the PCC Annual Report stressing the latest Deanery initiative regarding the environment – however, the information pack had not been

handed out at the last meeting in February and had not been forwarded to this parish as yet. Dr T. Goatham was thanked by the Rector.

## **Reports of Church Groups:**

These were included in the report booklet and there were no questions.

### **05.08 Any other business**

Mrs Mary Sargent, Churchwarden said on behalf of the PCC and the whole church family that she would like to take the opportunity to thank the clergy for their commitment to us all.

She thanked the Very Rev. David Frayne and the Rev. Jane Hedges for all that they did for Saint Mary's (seen and unseen) and for their support and their wisdom.

She especially thanked the Rev. Canon Alan Gill for his teaching, his leadership, his enthusiasm and his friendship – and, of course, Margery who is an important part of Alan's ministry.

The Rector, she said, had hinted that this was to be his last APCM in Gillingham and she offered them the support of the church family for the time that they have left in their ministry here and to wish them well for their future retirement.

She also expressed the church family's appreciation and thanks to Peter Clarke for his dedication playing the organ and to the music group who do a grand job on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month when Peter is absent.

Finally she offered her personal thanks to Mrs Carole Blackmore, our Parish Administrator, who works so hard on our behalf and keeps the Parish afloat – without her, she said, our task would be much more difficult. As it had become our custom at this time of year to send Carole a letter of thanks and a bouquet of flowers – she asked for everybody's agreement to do this again.

## **Closing prayers**

**Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council**  
for the year ending 31 December 2008

## ***Background***

St. Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating and working with the incumbent in the ecclesiastical parish of Gillingham, sharing in the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin and the Vicarage School Room in Queen Street, Gillingham.

However, the Rev. Canon Alan Gill retired effective the end of December 2008 but was on sabbatical from 1 November to the end of his tenure as incumbent.

## ***Membership***

### **PCC**

Members of the PCC are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or act ex officio. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent (Chairman):	Revd. Canon Alan Gill
Assistant Curate:	Revd. Jane Hedges
Churchwardens:	Mr P. Gray Mrs M. Sargent
Deputy Churchwardens:	Mr J. Nash Mr I. Watson (to April 2008) Mr R. Arnold (from April 2008)
PCC Vice-Chairman	Mr I. Watson (to April 2008) Mr J. Nash (from April 2008)
Deanery Synod Reps.: ( <i>Eligible for 3</i> )	Dr T. Goatham (to April 2008) Mrs M. Porter (from April 2008) Mrs C. Barrow
Secretary	Mr M. Sargent
Treasurer	Mr D. Bryan

Elected Members:	Mr R. Arnold	(from April 2008)
<i>(Eligible for 12)</i>	Mr S. Butler	(from April 2008)
	Mr. D. Bryan	(to April 2009)
	Mr R. Clarke	(to April 2009)
	Dr T. Goatham	(from April 2008)
	Mrs J. Hall	(from April 2008)
	Mrs P. Hooker	(to April 2008)
	Mr J. Nash	(to April 2010)
	Mrs S. Perrin	(to April 2010)
	Mr M. Sargent	(from April 2008)
	Mrs J. Walklett	(from April 2008)
	Mr I. Watson	(to April 2008)
	Mr J. Wiles	(from April 2008)

Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer                      Mrs C. Blackmore

### **Churches Together in Gillingham Representatives:**

The Very Rev David Frayne, Hilary Clarke, Teresa Goatham + 1 vacancy

### **Christian Aid Committee:**

Hilary Clarke

## ***Review of the year***

### **Church Attendance:**

Average number of communicants for the two Sunday Morning Eucharist Services combined is 102 with Wednesday morning Eucharist average attendance at 15

The Fairer Share Count in 2008 showed that, over the 5 week period 6<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May, the total number of regular attendees was 136; it also showed that 41 might have attended but did not and 46 received home communion because they are never able to get to church. Over that same 5 week period visitors numbered a maximum of 6 and a minimum of 3.

### **Statistics of weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations:**

Baptisms:	14
Confirmations:	0
Weddings:	4
Funerals: Church	17
Crematoria	16
Thanksgiving services:	5

## Gifts

Chasuble and stole  
New bell ropes for all bells

## Lent:

The Lent Study course was based on the Kingdom Sayings, where members of the laity each spoke about their experience of one of the sayings as an introduction to discussion.

Lent offerings were for Church Missionary Society

**Holy Week** was led by the Rev. Canon Alan Gill preaching on 'Journey to the Cross and beyond – travelling light to the Cross, reducing baggage – enlarging lives.' This commenced with the first address on Palm Sunday evening where the liturgy was organised by the laity.

**The Passover Meal** on Maundy Thursday preceded the Eucharist of the Last Supper.

## Special Services:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. - Snowdrop Walk Service
- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. - Ash Wednesday, Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. - Mothering Sunday
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mar. - Palm Sunday with procession
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mar. - Eucharist of the Last Supper
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. - The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar. - The Great Vigil of Easter, Easter Ceremonies & Eucharist
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. - Easter Day Eucharist
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun. - Stewardship Thanksgiving Service
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jul. - Festival Songs of Praise
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jul. - Families Weekend Outdoor Service
- 31<sup>st</sup> Jul. - M.U. Wave of Prayer
- 28<sup>th</sup> Sep. - Harvest Thanksgiving
- 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Farewell Eucharist for the Rev. Canon Alan Gill
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. - All Souls' Tide service with afternoon tea
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. - Requiem Eucharist for All Souls'
- 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. - Civic Remembrance Service
- 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. - Advent Service of Light
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. - Christingle Service
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. - Parish Carol Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. - Crib Service

## **Other Events:**

- Children's Post Christmas Party
- Epiphany Dinner
- Families Weekend
- Dorset Historic Churches Annual Cycle Ride
- Autumn Study based on Emmaus
- Parish Quiet Day at Ivy House
- Children's Christmas Workshop

## **PCC Committees**

were as follows

- Standing Committee
- Housekeeping and Finance Committee
- Worship & Christian Confidence Committee
- Christian Action Committee
- Social and Fundraising

These committees have met between full PCC meetings and their reports follow here.

During the year 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 the full PCC met on 8 occasions, of which 2 were 'extra' meetings dealing with specific issues. The average level of attendance was 71% (against 82% in 2007).

The Annual Church Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008. The number attending was 31.

## **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directives given by the council. This committee did not need to meet during the period.

## **Housekeeping and Finance Committee**

The Housekeeping and Finance Committee consisted of the Rector, the Rev. Canon Alan Gill (until his retirement), the Churchwardens, Mr. Philip Gray and Mrs. Mary Sargent, the Treasurer, Mr. David Bryan, elected members Mr J. Nash and Mr. Michael Sargent (Sec.) and co-opted member Mr. Alan Norman (Stewardship Recorder).

The committee has met formally five times during the year 2008.

Much of the business conducted at these meetings is covered in the Fabric Report (page 19), the Financial Report (page 21) and the separate Church Accounts. However, items covered during the year that do not come under Fabric or Finance were:-

- A Firewall was installed on the Office Computer.
- The Office photocopier contract was reviewed and revised in line with achieving best service at lowest cost.
- The committee recommended that a collection should be taken at a service in June for the Ordinand's Fund.
- A faculty was given for the loan of an old and valuable chalice owned by Saint Mary's but kept in the Cathedral Treasury to allow its display at an exhibition of gold and silverware in London during July.
- Advice was sought from diocese on personal security in church. Diocese could offer no advice other than what we do already - we have a mobile telephone and an alarm – make sure you know where they are kept!
- We had a very generous offer of a dishwasher for the VSR but unfortunately it was agreed that a suitable machine could not be practically accommodated in the VSR.
- Enquiries were started regarding the upgrading of the sound system but this has now been put in abeyance until we have a new incumbent. In fact the Housekeeping and Finance Committee recommend that any significant work should be restricted to maintenance rather than change until we have a new incumbent.
- The loan of our Bishop's crosier to the Bishop of Sherborne was authorised whilst his was being repaired – it has since been returned.
- The churchwardens have extra responsibility during the interregnum some of which the Housekeeping Committee share. Once the Rector moved out in October the telephone service was changed so that calls divert to the parish office, which in turn now has an answer phone with a suitable message for anybody requiring a priest. In conjunction with diocese we arranged for the rectory domestic water system to be drained down, all services shut down and regular security precautions have been put in-hand. The committee has agreed on clergy fees and expenses and how all expenses related to the interregnum are to be shared between benefice and diocese.

## **Worship and Christian Confidence Committee**

**The Lending Library** has been set up in Church and is being regularly used by members of the congregation and the **Book Stall** will now be seasonal (e.g. Christmas and Easter).

**Lent Study 2008** - A number of people gave a talk about what the Kingdom saying means to them and the introductions given by these individuals proved very successful. **Holy Week 2008** - It was felt that this was a good, positive spiritual experience with a lovely atmosphere at the Passover Meal.

**Stewardship Thanksgiving** Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June - The theme of the Thanksgiving service was based on 'The General Thanksgiving' from the Book of Common Prayer. It highlighted our achievements and commitments for the future.

**Families Weekend**, 19th - 20th July 2008 included an open air service on the Sunday morning.

**Festival Songs of Praise** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2008 was a successful event but disappointing that most outside organisations did not participate as this is where some of the impetus came from. **Harvest Thanksgiving**, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**Autumn Study Group** was based on Emmaus material Part III was used and led by The Revd C Marsh. It had proved beneficial to all who had attended (10-11).

**The Rector and Margery Gill's Farewell** 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008 - The Rector's last services at Saint Mary's were on 26<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and a Farewell Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. followed by lunch at Saint Mary the Virgin School.

Mike and Mary Sargent and Sandra Williams attended a course entitled '**Reaching Out to Children**' in Dorchester.

**Parish Quiet Day** 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008 was led by the Rev. Harvey Gibbons at Ivy House.

**Civic Carol Service** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2008

*Joanne Hall*

### **Christian Action Committee**

Membership: Teresa Goatham, Sylvia Perrin (up to last year's APCM), Hilary Clarke (co-opted), Margaret Porter (from APCM) and Richard Clarke (chairman and secretary).

Fund-raising under the committee resulted in about £3500 going to charities, most of which was Gift Aided. Fundraising events at St Mary's included organising Lent lunches and fundraising for the CMS, collections

for Christian Aid Week in May and a Christian Aid Tea in September, Wells for India, Harvest Thanksgiving appeal for Bishop Dollis educational projects, Christingle and Crib services for the Children's Society (collecting boxes were also distributed and collected).

May's 'Welcome to Gillingham' event at the Olive Bowl was not a success with very few people driving out to the Brickfields venue. In spite of a good deal of preparation, no discernable lasting contacts were made.

The Traidcraft stall was developed and St Mary's became a Fairtrade church.

The website gets better, but needs those putting on events to let Teresa know about them.

**Charitable donations** for 2008 were:-

Christian Aid	Lent Lunch 22/2	£102.65
	Lent Lunch 14/3	£91.50
	Christian Aid Week env.	£260.52 (May)
	Christian Aid Tea in Sept	£130
DEC Burma appeal		£187 (May)
Lent Appeal CMS		£207
The Children's Society Box collection		£506.39 (May/June)
Christingle & Crib services includes envelope & candle donations		£477.34 (Dec)
Harvest Appeal & Families w/e for Bishop Dollis educational project + harvest food offerings sent to North Dorset Refuge		£991.88
Christmas Greetings Board for Church Housing Trust		£223.83
Wells for India (organised by M & J Porter)		£110.50
Traidcraft evening (organised by T Goatham)		£200.00

*Richard Clarke*

## **Social & Fund Raising Committee**

An Epiphany dinner started the 2008 social calendar on 4th January.

At the annual meeting this year we were able to form a committee to organise events and so we have had quite a successful year socially.

We decided to hold coffee mornings every other month and are now arranged into next year. Another regular and popular social and outreach event is the Parish Lunch with an attendance of around 40 each month.

The Passover meal was well supported in the Vicarage Schoolroom and was a very enjoyable evening.

In April Teresa Goatham held a most enjoyable evening in the Vicarage Schoolroom showing us slides of her visit to South Africa. She told us all about the Traidcraft and we also had supper with Traidcraft products used.

Also in April we had a St George's Concert in St Mary's given by the Gillingham Imperial Silver Band. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. Our thanks to the band for making this a special evening.

The Spring Fair was held on 17th May which was quite successful and this was followed by a wonderful family weekend in July where refreshments were provided for the families that enjoyed the parachuting teddies and craft making in the church.

A very social barbecue was held in the Rectory garden in August and luckily the weather held out for us.

The annual Harvest Supper was again well attended and for entertainment the Jazz Group played for us.

In November Caroline Barrow organised a 'Just desserts and all that Jazz' evening. This again was well attended with everyone enjoying the pudding tastings and also the music from the Jazz group.

Our annual Christmas coffee morning in December was an enjoyable morning ending with a homemade soup and roll lunch.

Finally it has to be said that 2008 was an enjoyable year socially. We hope that the next year will be as successful.

*Sylvia Perrin*

## Fabric Report

The year 2008 did not bring major work on the church fabric but it was evident that future expenditure would be required in 2009 for essential repairs to the roof of the Good Shepherd Chapel/Vestry and administrative and faculty action was taken to initiate this. Damp was noted in the SW corner of the nave but was not dealt with during 2008. A number of routine maintenance actions were undertaken in the course of the year. The PCC has stated that it will not undertake any major changes to the Fabric during the interregnum. This means that any improvement of the church sound system and lighting (previously under review) will be left till the new incumbency.

- **Organ Repair.** Work was recommended and undertaken by Michael Farley, Organ Builder, to remedy a faulty tenor note at a cost of £450 (+ VAT which was reclaimable), funded from the Church General Account. A fault left after the modification was subsequently rectified and the invoice paid by Sep 2008.
- **Land Registration.** Land Registration was completed under diocesan arrangements in May 2008 as part of a national initiative, at favourable fee rates. Mrs Janet Robson provided the necessary declaration as a lifetime parishioner. Reported complete May 2008.
- **Commemorative Plate on New Altar.** A commemorative plate was affixed to the new, movable altar in the good Shepherd Chapel in memory of Gwendoline Allen with whose bequest the table was purchased.
- **Shelves in the Traidcraft Cupboard.** The old broom cupboard in the Stable Room was successfully converted and a lock attached for Traidcraft supplies. Reported complete Feb 2008.
- **Preparations for the Vestry Roof.** It had been noted at the 2004 Quinquennial inspection that a number of 'goose egg' blisters had formed on the mastic asphalt roof. The church architect, Mr Chris Romain, provided a specification in Feb 2008 for mastic asphalt, lead and stainless steel replacement options and sought quotations. A stainless steel option was decided upon by the PCC and a faculty was applied for and granted. A tender was accepted from Mr Stephen Sykes of Wimborne Minster, at a price of £17000 plus VAT, which did not include additional scaffolding and covering against the weather. Architect's fees will also be incurred. Work was scheduled for spring 2009.
- **Sanctuary Window Leak.** Rainwater was found to be leaking through the back of the window covering the internal sill and permeating through the stonework of the wall into the Easter Sepulchre. Mr Sargent rectified this by removal of a can from the guttering, reported complete May 2008.

- **VSR Lights.** At least 7 fluorescent tubes required replacement in the VSR. It was agreed to ask Gillingham Electric to replace them, as tower scaffolding was required.
- **Library Bookcase.** A new bookcase was purchased for the lending library now operating in the church.
- **Cherry Tree.** The dead ornamental cherry tree has been cut down and replaced by a magnolia, a gift of Mrs Rhodes of Museum Cottage. Reported complete Nov 2008.
- **Boiler Service (and consequent gas leak).** The annual gas boiler service was carried out and a gas leak found. A thermostat and valve were replaced. Reported complete May 2008.
- **Halyard Replacement.** The flagpole halyard failed prior to Easter making it impossible to fly the diocesan flag. Mr Sargent arranged purchase of a new halyard and flag clips and effected a permanent repair. Reported complete Jul 2008.
- **SW Nave Damp Patch.** The Rector drew attention to a damp patch in the SW corner of the nave, which has steadily worsened throughout the year. This was examined in Dec 2008 by the Church Architect, Mr Romain and Mr Sykes (contractor for the Good Shepherd Chapel roof). Mr Romain agreed to produce a schedule of works with a view to seeking tenders in 2009.
- **Door Latch on Vicarage School Room Door.** A door handle with latch was installed on the VSR door to improve safety of the Under Fives using the room. Reported complete Nov 2008.
- **Tower Drainage.** A leak from the drainage down-pipe in the tower has been taped up after leakage from a corroded area. This is being kept under observation.
- **Moss on North Path.** Moss on the North path was treated with moss killer to reduce the risk of people slipping. Reported complete Nov 2008.

*Philip Gray*

## Finance

Over the various funds within the account, receipts exceeded payments by £15,902. This was mainly due to an unconditional legacy of £10,000 together with the absence of any major unforeseen expenditure. Furthermore, despite the adverse global and national economic situation, receipts from our CCLA investments were somewhat higher than in 2007. It remains to be seen whether this trend will continue during 2009, particularly as the value of our investments has decreased substantially. Receipts were further increased by the transfer into the account of £1,022 from the Bellringers Fund, which is of course restricted, followed subsequently by a donation to the fund of £1,000.

Planned giving increased by over 5%, although there was a small decrease in income from collections. With the agreement of the PCC, a loan of £220 that had been held as a liability to the account for several years was incorporated as a donation during the year in the absence of any knowledge as to the identity of the lender.

Major payments during the year were our parish share of £47,247, which was paid in full, and the increasing costs of insuring the church and the vicarage schoolroom (VSR). All expenditure on the VSR, however, including heating, lighting and insurance, was this year more than covered by receipts from the hire of the room to local clubs and associations.

The overall cost of providing Christian ministry from St Mary's Church during the year was £67,587. This includes the parish share, which goes towards providing stipends and accommodation for the diocesan clergy, and office costs.

Looking to the future, our share for 2009 has been increased by 9.1% to £51,555. Our arrears in share payments dating back to 2003 and beyond were, however, written off by the Diocese during the year. The forthcoming repairs to the roof of the Good Shepherd Chapel will inevitably result in a significant reduction to the Fabric Fund and our finances in general in 2009.

*David Bryan, Treasurer*

## **Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod met only twice in 2008 - February and June. The October meeting was cancelled due to the unavailability of the speaker.

The main thrust of the February meeting was a statement on climate change and our responsibilities both as parishes and individuals. It was felt that each parish should be able to do something – though geo-thermal under floor heating and solar panels may not be possible for most but saving on lighting and the use of low energy light bulbs probably was. An explanation of the Fairer Share Count was given by the Treasurer (nothing we did not as a parish already know). Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show Church Tent was the responsibility of the Shaston Team for 2008. Sue Minshall, Lay Chair informed the members that this would be Mark Zammit's last meeting.

The June meeting was mostly taken up by elections, Sue Chandler becoming Lay Chair, Rita Stranger, Secretary and Mr Rodney Attwood, Treasurer. A short discussion followed on a Deanery Development Plan where we were asked to state both the ideal number of stipendiary clergy and the practical minimum. The deanery as a whole concluded that the ideal number was 12 with a minimum of 10 which far exceeds the 7 and 7.5 suggested by diocese (the usefulness of this exercise still alludes me!).

*Caroline Barrow*

# **Groups and Organisations**

## **Introduction**

This last year we have again seen a lot of activity in the life of Saint Mary's and we have also experienced a significant change.

For the activity, which you can read about in this report, we owe a large debt of thanks to those people who lead and make up the committees, groups and organisations; it is they who are responsible for the joy of our life, ministry and activity. For their initiative, drive and enthusiasm we, as churchwardens, offer them the thanks of the whole church family.

The change that we have experienced, and continue to feel, is the retirement of the Rev. Canon Alan Gill and Margery. Their ministry will surely be missed but it is no time to ruminate on what has been but to prepare and look forward to what is to come. Thus, as we prepare this annual report, our benefice profile, which highlights so much good in the life of our church, is going out to those who might lead us in the future.

With the strong foundations that the folk on our committees, groups and organisations provide and everybody's continued support we have much to look forward to with a new Priest-in-Charge.

*Churchwardens*

## **Bell Ringing & Tower Report**

This year has seen continued progress for the ringers, particularly for those who took up the art 18 months or so ago. They are now getting to grips with call change ringing and plain hunting, the first steps towards full change ringing.

We have been able to ring for all weddings and church services.

Bells and fittings are all in good order, the new set of ropes are being fitted on an as and when needed basis.

The clock continues to keep good time, slight adjustments are needed about once a month, carried out when the clock is wound on Sundays.

Last Easter the flag became detached from the pole during the gale force winds and this ultimately needed the replacement of the rope and fittings.

*Paul Cumberland, Tower Captain*

## **Child Protection**

I accepted the invitation, earlier in the year to be the Parish 'Local Child Protection Administrator' and this was confirmed by the PCC. In October, I attended the 'Safeguarding and Working with Children' training session at Ivy House Warminster.

Three CRB applications have been processed via Sandra Williams as I am not yet a Verifier. I expect to complete the training for this during 2009.

There is a new system coming into place in October 2009 which will change how we accept people in certain roles within the Church. Training will be offered for those who are involved in recruiting people, paid and volunteers. This will take priority as there are legal implications if we do not get it right.

*Carol Hall*

## **Choir and Music Group**

The choir is now a much reduced group of people due to the departure of Margery and the poor health of David. However we are as determined as ever to make a 'joyful noise unto the Lord' on Sunday mornings. We are always grateful to the additional singers who come to join us over busier periods such as Advent and Christmas. We also thank Peter Clarke for his inspiring organ playing. The music group continues to flourish on the third Sunday in the month; recently the use of scanning and email has enabled me to cut down on the monthly distribution of sheets of music. We are always on the lookout for new players – I think we can find a niche for almost any instrument !

*John Porter*

## **Churches Together in Gillingham**

The forum met for the usual 4 times. The WPCU was as usual the first Ecumenical event of the year; some evening services were introduced and attracted different people, though somewhat early for many who are at work. Lent study groups went well - 3 groups using a BBC course; Advent ones were well attended though there were some dissatisfaction with the lack of depth in the material. Having the host and leader from different denominations is encouraging more mixing in the groups. The Good Friday procession was once again well attended though very cold weather meant numbers were down. Less well attended was the picnic this time (just St. Mary's people!). Books were given to all year six children leaving the primary schools in Gillingham and Milton and we are looking at giving more books to the library (for youngsters this time). A Quiz in the autumn was as usual popular, though the intention of linking it to One World Week seemed largely forgotten (the latter was dropped from the Agenda). Better quality

Christmas cards led to many comments, the majority clearly positive, but being much more expensive careful thought will be needed on the value of this. The possibility of the churches sharing the use of the Nordcat minibus to help disabled people get to church was explored, but decided not practical at this time. Investigations into being involved in Gillingham Festival were too late for 2008 but are on course for 2009. The forum saw more changes than usual, especially amongst the clergy. We said goodbye to David Bridge (Methodist Minister) who had served two terms as Chairman, as well as, of course, to Alan Gill and also to Peter Dukes (from the Community Church).

*Teresa Gotham*

## **Flower Arrangers**

We have sixteen regular arrangers and six more who always help at festivals. This is a generous commitment of time and expense which is much appreciated. The Flower Fund (with Lloyds Bank) stands at £119.54 at the end of February. Gifts of money and greenery have been gratefully received. We thank all the flower arrangers for their time, skill and generosity. Additional flower arrangers and donations are always welcome.

*Liz Frayne and Anne Pike*

## **Fun Praise**

For the last year this has taken the form of a weekly Collective Worship for the Foundation Stage children at St Mary the Virgin Primary School. These are Nursery and Reception (first year of Primary School). Children hear a Bible story, take part by singing songs, thinking about the story and praying together. I try to go in and lead it once a month and it is teacher led the other weeks.

It is a popular session and there are plans to offer it further up the school in some form or another.

*Sandra Williams*

## **“Impact”**

In April 2008, Margaret Grant retired after many years as editor of ‘Impact’ and Daphne Bryan and Margaret Porter joined the team. Daphne, as editor, took over the formatting of the document, previously done by the office, and Margaret (sub-editor) became proof-reader. The other committee members in 2008 were Sam Woodcock, who oversaw magazine distribution in Milton, Eileen Nash who managed Gillingham’s distribution and Jeff Nash who was advertisement co-ordinator.

In addition to the work of the magazine committee and of Carole in the parish office, who prints and collates the finished magazine, twenty-two distributors deliver 'Impact' directly to readers' houses each month. This delivery ensures a basic regular readership. In all, 320 copies are printed each month, of which 267 are delivered by hand and post. The rest go to various outlets which include the church, VSR, Parish Office and Copy Shop. More are sold in some months (particularly at Easter and Christmas) than others. The Committee is looking for ways in which readership might be increased.

Since May 2008, 'Impact' has had four extra pages (one A4 sheet). The aims of the magazine are to inform (particularly about services and coming events), to stimulate thought and to entertain. The Committee is very grateful to all the contributors who make this diversity possible, and many positive comments about the magazine's current style have been received. The magazine carries a considerable number of advertisements which bring in over £1,500 each year and are a significant contribution towards costs. It is felt that the present number of advertisements are sufficient to balance the pages of articles.

'Copy date', the date by which all contributions must reach the office, is calculated so as to allow each step, i.e. proof reading, formatting, printing and delivery, to be completed. As two and a half weeks are needed for this work, the copy date selected each month is the Wednesday two and a half weeks before the last Sunday of the month.

#### Looking to the future:

In March 2009 Jeff and Eileen Nash will be stepping down after many years on the committee. They will be replaced by Colin Marsh - advertisement co-ordinator, and Carol Foster - distribution co-ordinator for Gillingham.

*Daphne Bryan*

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

The first Lay Pastoral Assistants at St. Mary's, three in number, were commissioned in 2001 on the initiative of the Rev. Canon Alan Gill. They attended a formal training course of several weeks with others in the Deanery and on its successful conclusion were granted a licence by the Bishop of Salisbury. Since then several of our congregation have been commissioned and our enlarged team has continued to meet with the clergy on a monthly basis in the context of the Eucharist to discuss the various ways in which their assistance and expertise could be used in the pastoral ministry of our church. This has included visiting the sick, the bereaved, and families preparing for Baptism. Lay Pastoral Assistants have helped with the Marriage Preparation Day and have supported the bereaved at the Snowdrop Walk and All Souls Day services. LPAs take it in turn to welcome members of the congregation as they arrive for the

10am.service on Sundays. Evening Worship at Rawson Court has been prepared and led by LPAs about four times during the year taking their turn with other denominations in Gillingham.

The 'Monday Tea with St. Mary's' has continued each month during the year, the number attending has remained stable – more would be most welcome – but those who come appreciate the time together and are very faithful and supportive. These 'Teas' are intended for anyone in our community so please spread the word to your friends and through organisations to which you may belong. For the second year running Christmas shoeboxes, twelve in number, filled with small gifts for needy people in Bulgaria, were delivered to the Trussell Trust in Salisbury in November as a result of an LPA initiative.

We look forward to the appointment of our new incumbent and he/she can be assured of our loyalty and commitment in whatever way it is wished.

*Maureen Atkinson*

## **Ministry to Young Families**

Our impatience would make it all too easy to say that we have not made a lot of progress in 2008 but we do have a few new young faces in church on a regular basis and a lot of people have had a lot of fun along the way. We also have a lot of support and contact outside of the church building – perhaps this is where our greatest achievements and challenges lie!

The Family Service Worship team continue to work hard to come up with appropriate ideas, consistent with the lectionary, to present God's word to an all age gathering together with a related activity for the children which also has to be thought out and resourced. This team currently consists of Charlotte Armstrong, Jo Hall, Gillian Harding and Mary and Mike Sargent. Although we have occasionally used other members of the congregation to help with the presentations, it is our hope to expand this in 2009.

Outreach activities for young families in 2008 were initially frustrated because children were still at school during Holy Week and thus it was not possible to hold a holiday club. However, on Good Friday afternoon we did have the opportunity to quietly relate the Easter Story through 'Godly Play' and then the children joined with the adults for the traditional Hot Cross Buns. On Easter Eve children again came along to the church to help make one of the flower arrangements to decorate the church and to build the Easter Garden – the children definitely see this as more than just an activity, perhaps worship activity would be a better description.

Mid-year saw a return of the Families Weekend and the popular Parachuting Teddies along with hands-on crafts in church – great fun for

children and adults alike. These activities sandwiched a very happy Outdoor Family Service on the Sunday morning, this year with baptisms!

Finally in church, on the morning of the Annual Grand Christmas Coffee Morning, there were again children's crafts followed by the Christmas Story told in a very special way by Rev. Jeffrey Hall and some enjoyable singing organised and led by Liz Frayne.

As always, it is 'work in progress'.

*Mike Sargent*

## **Mothers' Union**

We are pleased to say that in spite of some uncertainty at the start of 2008, the group has 27 full members, all committed to another year of prayer and giving for the good work of the Mothers' Union country and worldwide. We met on the first Tuesday each month, at 2.30pm in the Vicarage Schoolroom, and have appreciated time for prayer and friendship, our programme based on the monthly Diocesan leaflet of Reflection & Intercession. Through our prayers and giving, we are supporting a worldwide organisation in a very real way. Members have also been involved in making stoles for Sudanese Bishops to take back after the Lambeth Conference and also a delightful set of knitted crib figures to be circulated round four young families in preparation for Christmas. All are welcome to join us.

*Liz Frayne*

## **Serving Team**

We have had another great year; we have managed to field a full team of servers at every service this year. We now have a good working rota of some 14 servers this now enables some of us to have a week or two off and sit in congregation. We have welcomed two new servers this year and we are all ways very happy for any one to come and join us as we could always do with a few more people to go on our rota.

This is a very important part of our lay ministry at St Mary's and before most major services we have a dress rehearsal to ensure that all goes well on the day etc.

I would like to thank Rev. Canon Alan Gill for all the support that he has given us over the years; he has always been a guiding hand ensuring that all the festivals have been conducted to the high standard that we have come to know and love at St Mary's

I would like to thank the servers who turn up every week who play this very important role in the life of our church, to help enhance the worship and also to Mike Sargent who helps me with the service training and who covers for me when I am not around

*Steve Butler*

## **Saint Mary's Under 5's**

We endeavour to build links with this group, operating under our name and who meet on Wednesday mornings 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. during term times in the Vicarage School Room. The format is free play with a variety of up-to-date toys appropriate for babes to under 5's, refreshments for all, a craft activity and singing.

## **Traidcraft/Fairtrade**

The Christian Action Committee gets passed literature from many charities that are sent to clergy. One such, from the fair trade shop in Blandford in 2005, led to a decision that we should aim to have a Traidcraft stall. When we failed to find anyone willing to run it, I used the catalogue I had sent for to take a few orders for Christmas. That was so easy I decided I could find the time to run the stall! Greater sales than anticipated but the more I learn of the conditions in which others are living and the difference fair trade can make, the more worthwhile it seems. A talk in April on my Traidcraft trip to "meet the people" in South Africa led to more than £400 being raised for Traidcraft Exchange, the charity part of Traidcraft that works to enable poor producers in Africa and Asia to grow their businesses, find markets, and engage effectively in trade. Thanks to those who attended and donated to this. (A request has been received, and will be followed up, to repeat this in 2009). The sale of products used in the supper at the talk benefited a little, but overall sales from the stall declined in 2008 - I hope this is because people were buying more from the increasing range of Fairtrade (including Traidcraft) products in the shops. Thanks to Mary Gray for helping with the stall. On Sundays the stall is not set out, she or I sell the odd item from the cupboard - do please ask if there is anything you need. Sadly thefts of money from the small stall in St. Mary's church have led to no change now being made available there, but the stall continues to be used by those who find this more convenient. Sales might be down, but I was delighted that in November we were at last able to become recognized as a Fairtrade Church - as the letter of congratulations says "Church congregations continue to be invaluable Fairtrade supporters and campaigners".

This involvement with fair trade led to me attending a Fairtrade in Dorset meeting on Portland in Oct at which I took the decision to campaign to make Gillingham a Fairtrade Town - thanks to St. Mary's for supporting this, especially allowing the use of the Vicarage Schoolroom. Quite a change

from 3 years ago when I decided that all I had time for was to look for someone else to run a stall!

*Teresa Gotham*

## ***Regular social events 2009***

**Monday tea with Saint Mary's** in the Vicarage Schoolroom on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month from 2.30pm - 4.00pm. This is not a fund raising occasion, just an opportunity to meet friends and chat informally over a cup of tea. Please come and bring your friends.

**Sunday lunch** in the Vicarage Schoolroom on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month, 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Cost £6.00 (inc. soft drinks) you are free to bring your own wine; glasses will be provided. Numbers are limited so it is necessary to "sign up" on the list in the church porch.

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## ***Dates to remember***

16 <sup>th</sup> May	Spring Fair
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Silton Singers – Concert in Church
10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> July	North Dorset Quilters - Exhibition in Church

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## ***Vicarage Schoolroom***

The school room is used by many church groups and privately hired to many local organisations to help finance the running costs.

The schoolroom is run by the PCC and bookings for the hire of the school room can be made through the Parish Office, 01747 8215989

The charging rates are as follows:-

With basic kitchen facilities (tea/coffee making/Washing up)	£22.50 per half day session £40.00 all day (up to 3 sessions)
With FULL kitchen facilities (use of cooker/place settings)	£30.00per half day session £50.00 all day (up to 3 sessions)
Hire of video player	£5.00 per hiring

## ***Church Officers and Contacts:***

<b>Rector</b>	<b>Interregnum</b>
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	<b>Rev. Jane Hedges</b> Tel: 01747 822812
<b>Hon. Assistant Priests</b>	<b>The Very Rev. David Frayne</b> Tel: 01747 824065 <b>Rev. Jeffrey Hall</b> Tel: 01747 826936
<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>Administrator: Mrs Carole Blackmore</b> Open: Tues. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (situated off Queen Street, opposite Church, next to Vicarage School Room)
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<b>Bell ringers</b>	Mr Paul Cumberland Tel: 01747 835170
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mr Philip Gray Tel: 01747 824900 Mrs Mary Sargent Tel: 01747 821962
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	Mrs Liz Frayne
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Mrs Liz Frayne
<b>Music Group</b>	Mr John Porter
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mr Michael Sargent
<b>Serving Team</b>	Mr Steve Butler
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr David Bryan
<b>St. Mary's Under 5's</b>	Wed. 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. Vicarage School Room, Queen Street