

Parish of Uxbridge

**Annual Reports 2008
for the
Annual Parochial
Church Meeting**

**Sunday 26 April, 2009
at 4pm
St. Andrew's**





The Team Rector's Report

I continue to be encouraged by the life of the Parish as a whole. Both churches show considerable signs of life and growth. During a year of financial upheaval and insecurity across the world it is vital that the Church is here to offer an alternative way of life for those who have become disillusioned and started to question the deeper meaning of life. Our churches are both in prominent positions and we seem to have had plenty of newcomers joining us over recent months.

Whilst we are far from perfect, I hope they have found a community of love and faith. St. Paul describes the church as a "temple of the Holy Spirit" and week by week as we gather together in different ways we pray for God's presence with us in our worship.

Our Team Ministry gives us challenges, because we don't always see things the same across our two churches, but it is also tremendously enriching. I am grateful to work with colleagues who are committed to serving in a partnership and who bring a range of gifts and passions to our life together.

I thank God for June's faithfulness to Him and her passion for mission and sharing the love of God with others. She keeps our Team looking outward which is vital. Fr Cliff brings a deep spirituality, and his desire to spend time with God in prayer and meditation helps to centre us and remind us that at heart we are about living with Jesus and for Him.

I am delighted that Pete Telfer has joined the team as Youth worker during the last year. His contribution to the Parish has been very significant already. Soul Survivor, Fort Rocky an amazing Christmas Ball and youth led services at St. Andrew's have all been part of this. We are delighted to have him and Lizzie as part of the Parish.

Of course not everything is as we hope, and we have disappointments as well as encouragements. I have to be honest and say we really miss Emma's contribution as Children's worker to the life of the Parish. Emma left in October, she had made a great contribution amongst children and I know many were very sorry to see her go.

Overall I think we are in a good position. Our partnership has matured over the years, the participation of many volunteers across the Parish is fundamentally important to who we are, and above all we depend of Jesus Christ who is both the author and sustainer of our faith.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Revd. Andrew Sheard
Easter 2009

...from the Vicar (St. Margaret's)



It is really hard to know how to measure or evaluate the life and progress of a church.

Sometimes statistics can help... attendance at service, numbers on the electoral roll, those coming forward for Baptism and Confirmation. If the development of St. Margaret's were to be measured by these things I think we should be quietly encouraged. We have seen steady signs of growth, and quietly but surely we are seeing people come to faith in Jesus Christ. I write on Easter day having just celebrated the risen life of Christ with baptisms by immersion

However how can you measure depth of faith in terms of statistics? Those of us who have been a Christian for many years also want to flourish and grow, and continue to serve. Certainly I am more encouraged than ever by people's willingness to serve God and the church. We have superb and dedicated volunteers working across every area of Church life. It is not possible to begin to mention all of you, but I do want to thank you for your dedication – which is often outstanding. If we are serving with all our strength, and asking God to work through us, then the church will flourish.

The challenge for us in this modern and frenetic world, with a church that is available to people and serving on many fronts is to continue to abide in Jesus. He teaches us in John 15 of how vital it is to be connected to him as a branch is connected to the vine. Only then is it possible to see fruit grow. Our visible public ministry is serving the town in which we live, but will only be of use if it is built on the invisible life of God within us. For that to be a reality we want to be connecting with Jesus personally on a daily basis in quiet and secret places.

When people talk to me about St. Margaret's church, the thing I hear about most often is the love which people experience there. I know we won't always get that right, but Jesus did say that would be the way people recognise his disciples. We are very fortunate to have a superb loving team at the heart of our weekday ministry. Carrie, Shirley, Tina and Jane express the love and vision of the church in the way they serve others and support each other – though many of us aren't in a position to see their work on a daily basis, they are at the very heart of our loving church.

I am personally grateful for all that I receive through being part of St. Margaret's.

May God bless you, so that you can be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ

Andrew

...from the Town Centre Minister



As we review our work in the town centre, I believe that we can be quietly encouraged. Many people who come through the coffee bar and open church comment that there is something different, a welcome and warmth which does not seem to be there to the same extent in other places. I believe that they are experiencing something of the love of God demonstrated to them in tangible ways through staff and volunteers. It is this love that is drawing people on into various midweek ministries and towards our different midweek congregations, where there are increasingly loving communities to welcome them. And it is this love that is stirring them to seek after God and go on with him. God does seem to be at work, quietly but powerfully, drawing people to himself and on with him

People in need

During the year we have found an increasing number of people who are in significant need coming to us to seek help. Some of this has inevitably been caused by the increasing impact of the recession. We want to serve people in the best possible way and so, with this in mind, we have set up a group to review how we serve those who are homeless. We have also been looking at how we can serve more effectively those who are facing significant concerns in relation to money. We have also been approached about acting as a distribution centre for a Foodbank project which will seek to provide food for those in immediate need. This all flows out of our desire to serve people as Jesus Christ would have us serve.

Ministry among workers

The ministry among workers is challenging. Increasing pressures at work, as a result of the current economic climate, means that it is sometimes more difficult for people to take time out during the day. As a result, attendance at some of our business breakfasts and lunches has been down, but I believe they continue to be a valuable contact point with people working in the town. We are now in contact with a wide network of people in the town, through various means, not least of all through our chaplaincy ministry.

We are also seeking to support actively Christians working in the town, through our now well established 'thought for the week' and through

opportunities for prayer and fellowship each Wednesday; I am very grateful to Chris Green for his work in this area especially. Our café style congregation 'Soul Café' started in October and has been meeting monthly at Baroosh, providing an oasis where Christians can find support and encouragement and where they can bring colleagues who are seeking after God

New Ventures

During the year, in addition to Soul Café, two new ventures have been bubbling up. I have been working hard with a team from several churches on the Street Angel project. Expanding the chaplaincy ministry, this has a vision for reaching out to people out late in Uxbridge with the love of God through word and action. We are aiming for Hillingdon Street Angels to be widely publicized in local churches throughout May and June, with a view to training and launching our first team in September 2009. More recently we have also started exploring the possibility of offering prayer for healing to people in the centre of Uxbridge through 'Healing on the Streets'.

Children

On a very different note, we were very sad to lose Emma as our Outreach Children's Work Co-ordinator during the Autumn. She is much missed.

But PromiseLand went fortnightly from the end of September and it is encouraging to see increasing numbers of unchurched children engaging with Jesus Christ and discovering something of the friendship that he offers. It has also been good to see a leadership team gradually developing with a more shared responsibility for PromiseLand.

Thanks

Overall, I believe there is much for which we can be quietly thankful. I am deeply grateful to our staff and to the many volunteers who serve in so many different ways. But most of all I am grateful to God for the ways in which he has been at work. Let us fix our eyes on him as we go forward to the future and follow where he would lead

With love

June



St Andrew's Church

Vicar's report 2009

This has been a year of quiet consolidation and growth but as usual a number of things stand out

Winter night shelter

St Andrew's hosted a slightly longer winter month's night this year. A total of men were given a bed during this period. Whilst with us they benefited from input from a number of agencies and as a result most were found appropriate accommodation. This is the third year we have hosted the shelter and this has become a significant part of our contribution to the community.

The Soup Kitchen

Despite uncertainties with regard to finance and personnel the St Andrew's Thursday Soup Kitchen ministry located in our church hall has continued to provide hot food for the homeless, the lonely and the vulnerable. Our thanks go to Paul Clargo and team for their cooking, cleaning and caring skills over the last year. As the credit crunch continues to bite this will become an increasingly important ministry in the months ahead and we are grateful to the Ladies group of St Martin's Ruislip who have voted us one of our two charities of the year and have donated a thousand pounds to the ongoing work based at St Andrew's.

Two of the most important developments in the life of our congregation in the last year have been the restructuring of our Welcomers Ministry group and the launch of our Prayer Pastor Scheme.

Welcomer Ministry team

Flowing from our Mission Action Plan our church Welcome strategy was revised and a new bigger welcome team was formed and operates and meets under the leadership of Rosie Halford. A new Welcome strategy is in place and as a result we are welcoming and retaining increasing numbers of new people.

Prayer Pastor's Ministry

For some time it has been our vision that every regular member of our congregations should be prayed for by name everyday. To enable this to happen we have created a new team of people who have undertaken to serve in this capacity under the leadership of Sue Leatherby. Each prayer pastor has a form of daily prayer and a leaflet with the photographs of each member of the congregation that they will pray for each day. This will make a significant difference to the spiritual health not just of individual members but also to the whole family of the church.

Alterations and improvements to our building

One of the frustration that we all feel is the way things often move so slowly. Our desire to address the serious condition of the church floor has passed through several preliminary stages and the architect will be visiting on May ... to begin the process of creating the detailed drawings of the tile layout required by the Diocesan Advisory Board.

The DAC are also being consulted about the possibility of replacing our damp ridden external notice boards. Designs for a replacement have already been submitted.

On a happier note the work on extending and renewing the kitchen in the church hall has been successfully completed and we are currently in negotiation with probation services placement manager to explore the possibility of a supervised team helping with the redecoration of the church hall.

General Comments and Thank you's

I am very conscious that the bulk of the work that takes place in our church rests on the shoulders of a small group of dedicated heroes. Helen Ogilvie and Sue Leatherby continue to be outstanding Church Wardens. I am also particularly grateful for the humour and insights of Lee Halford our treasurer and director of music, for the pastoral support and hard work of Rosie, for Simon Harrison and George Norwood who prepare the church for our services, for Rebecca Measures who cleans and for Barbara Peacock who not only beautifies the church with flowers and Easter gardens but who also in the last few weeks has provided me with the first secretarial support I have had since I have been here! I am also genuinely grateful to all the people of St Andrew's for their faith and increasing love for each other.

Fr. Cliff Bowman

Vicar of St Andrew's

Financial Activities - 2008



The financial activities of St Margaret's and St Andrew's are directed and monitored by the PCC as the legal body. Accordingly the accounts for the two churches are brought together into a single PCC end of year report and audited as required under the rules laid down by the Diocese and the Charity Commission. If you require a full copy of the accounts then copies are available at the APCM or they can be obtained from the Parish Office, Tony Rapson (Treasurer St M's) or Lee Halford (Treasurer St A's) and if not already, it is hoped to have them scanned and made available on the Parish Web Site.

The Church financial year runs from 1st January to 31st of December and for 2008 the Parish made a deficit in year of £226,813 with income decreasing by £146,917. The deficit is almost entirely due to the reduction in share price as a result of the global economic downturn. As large as it is this deficit need not worry us too much as hopefully, over time, the share price will eventually increase again. It would only be a problem if, for any reason, we had to sell shares held in the trust capital accounts whilst the share price is so low. Moving on to what appears to be a very large reduction in income. This figure is skewed because in 2007 St Peter's house was re-valued increasing the value in the accounts by some £135,000. The remaining reductions come from small reductions in a number of areas and the significant reduction in room hire income at St Margaret's.

Other highlights from the year included within the accounts are the refurbishment of the kitchen at St Andrew's which was mainly paid from in-year funds with only a relatively small addition required to be drawn down from trust funds. At St Margaret's there was an increase in giving which was mainly as a result of some larger one-off donations received towards the end of the year.

Overall the Parish finished 2008 in a strong position to weather the current financial storm. However, we should not be under any illusion that we will have to dip into our savings / trusts fund more than normal. This is true if for no other reasons than the income from those funds, mostly in the form of interest and dividends will reduce significantly in 2009, yet we have planned to spend at or above our usual rate.

Tony Rapson
Honorary Treasurer
St Margaret's

Lee Halford
Honorary Treasurer
St Andrew's

Report on the PCC meetings for the APCM 2009

Everyone on the PCC are asked to consider being part of at least one of the working groups however you don't need to be on the PCC to be part of the groups. The working groups discussed issues and bring to the PCC their findings, some of the items they have brought to the PCC are as follows: Community Group – have discussed the review of the parish directory, the harvest supper and the parish magazine. Worship & Spirituality Group – co-ordinated last year's prayer week and are now busy planning for this year's prayer week (10-17th May). They have also discussed joint parish worship, advent & lent quiet days. Mission & Witness Group – have discussed a variety of subjects including adopting a street, what charities should benefit from the Christmas collections, Alpha, parish challenge, Soul Café, Street Angels/Pastors, clergy visits from overseas and the parish website. YWMT group – for several months the main role for this group was managing the different youth groups during the absence of a youth worker, they also organized a group of 33 young people (plus 11 leaders) to attend Soul Survivor which was one of Pete's first duties as Youth worker. At each meeting a report is given on what's happening at each of the youth groups that meet in the parish. The youth have also had the opportunity to attend Fort Rocky and an away day at home. OCWT group – oversees the running of Promiseland in the absence of an outreach worker on a fortnightly basis, they have been encouraged at how it's growing especially with the number of un-churched children that have been attending as well as the number of volunteers that have been coming forward.

Report on the St Andrew's Church Council meetings for the APCM 2009

There have been several major items that have been discussed at length during the St Andrew's church council meetings one of them has been the long awaited refurbishment of the kitchen, this work was completed in November. We have also discussed at length the repair/replacement of the church floor, we are now waiting for the architect to get us some competitive quotes so we can proceed with the work, it has been estimated the cost of this to be in the region of £35,000.00, the money for the work will come from trust funds however a fund raising committee has been formed to help raise money to replace the money used from the funds, so far we have had a quiz night which raised £160, we plan to have more events that will need your support. The council has also been discussing the damp to the Chapel walls which is probably a result of poor drainage, several members of the council are getting together to investigate this further. Several members of the church council have also worked together to increase the car-parking spaces (these help generate extra income) they have also carried out general maintenance on a regular basis to the church buildings (if you feel you can help out on a regular basis please speak to Father Cliff or the wardens). The church council also received reports from the Soup Kitchen, at the beginning of the year they had £5,000.00 in the bank this will allow the kitchen to run this year but it's future is currently uncertain.

REVOLUTION Report

The last nine months have been hugely encouraging and a real privilege to get alongside the young people in our youth ministry. Since arriving I have always said that I've felt a really good foundation has already been laid and all I'm doing is building on top of that. I'd like to express my appreciation to the co-ordinators, who I seek to work alongside closely for each of the regular groups: Amy Scott, Sally Clargo, Toni Meadows & Vikki Connolly. They will each report on their reflections of the groups they lead. I'd also like to thank Vince as my line manager, the clergy and the Youth Work Management Team for their continual support, wisdom & encouragement. Thank you to my wife so much for her continual support and encouragement. This said the youth work would really struggle to exist if it wasn't for our dedicated teams of volunteers so a huge thank you to them. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the young people for the way they have helped Lizzie & I settle in Uxbridge. Thank you to parents for your encouragements and to the rest of you for really looking out for us.

Back in July 08, I noticed various needs for the groups that existed and worked closely with the young people, teams and Youth Work Management Team as to how to best improve them. Our vision for the youth ministry is to 'see young people's lives transformed in Uxbridge through knowing God's love and living Christ's way'. This is about fulfilling Jesus' commandment in Matthew 28:16-20 when he calls all of us to make disciples. My conviction is that Jesus is not just calling us to make converts but rather disciples. In other words, this is about long-term investment in people helping them draw closer to Jesus. I believe this is about three very important areas: Engagement, Evangelism and Encouragement. Engagement is about being where people are (rather than just expecting them to come to us). Evangelism is about the urgency that people need to know the good news of Jesus. Encouragement is recognising that the Christian life is sometimes really hard and we all need support. Therefore, everything that goes on in the youth work fits into one or more of these areas:

REVOLUTION → E

How is effective discipleship achieved?

Sept 08 & Future

10-13's Uxbridge High

11-13's St Andrew's School

Uxbridge High

Engagement

Evangelism

Encouragement

headspace

'Youth Club'

Youth Mentoring

THE VIBE

St A's Youth Service

St M's Eve Service

>> CELLS
by young people, for young people

Cell Leaders Mentoring

X-TREME

Pathfinders

www.startarevolution.org.uk



The youth ministry prayer group has continued to meet regularly over the past year to pray for our young people and the youth work in our parish. The prayer group meets every 8-10 weeks at the Dillamore's house and consists of a faithful core of between 3-6 people who pray committedly. God has given us some gracious answers to prayer, particularly in the provision of our new Youth Worker, Pete Telfer, (and his wife, Lizzie). Pete has contributed fully to the prayer meetings and has given the group the new name of "The Hub", which reflects the desire for prayer (and seeking God's will) to be at the centre of all the many and varied aspects of the youth ministry.

We give thanks for all the hard work of our youth leaders, for the way the youth ministry is developing in both our churches and for God's wonderful work in the lives of our young people, as we see them grow in faith, service and love.

Beth Humphreys, The Hub Co-ordinator



headsp^ace

The aim of Headspace was to help the older young people become more integrated into the evening service at St Margaret's. It stopped a number of months before I came. However, I felt that there was a need for it to start up again. However, it became apparent that the group had fulfilled its function and wasn't attracting younger people so I decided after consultation with our Cell leaders and youth work management team that it was right to stop it. We are looking into possibilities of a similar group starting in the future.



Cells has had a fantastic year! Last summer we had a relaxing term combining chilling out at the church, playing games in the park and some teaching sessions designed by our cell leaders. We unfortunately had to say good bye to some of our regular cell members including Rob Drake, Rachel Bradley and Sarah Humphreys who had been fantastic cell leaders for a number of years. In September we started teaching sessions based on Rob Bell's Nooma DVD's and after Christmas we used "The cry of my heart" by Tim Hawkins as our teaching material. A typical cells session will start with a time of welcome including refreshments, playing on the Wii and catching up with each other. We'll then have a time of worship which takes various forms and has included creative prayer, quiet contemplation and games. A time of teaching will follow which will include the group splitting up into 3 smaller cell groups ably led by our cell leaders with at least one adult leader for support. The cell leaders will lead discussions on different issues based around Bible teaching and the groups will regularly pray for each other.

We've been really encouraged this year by the growth of Cells, we regularly have about 25 young people attend on a Tuesday night, a mixture of churched and unchurched young people which is great to see. As well as regular Tuesday night sessions, we've also had a number of great socials as

well including ice skating and our recent weekend “Home” as well as our annual trip to Soul Survivor!

All of the amazing things that have happened this year wouldn't have been possible without our cell leaders and adult leaders so huge thanks must go to Rachel Sheard, Joe Benner, Sam Sheard, Jasmine Rapson, Matthew Ogilvie, Hannah Dillamore and Clare Birch as well as Steve Dwyer, Iain Meadows, Patrick Colbert, Lizzie Telfer and David Thomas (DT). Special thanks to Pete Telfer who has provided fantastic leadership and support since starting as Parish Youthworker in July.

Vikki Connolly, Cells Co-ordinator

Cell Leaders Mentoring

Our Cell leaders are amazing: they are faithful and committed and deliver week after week. Therefore, I've felt it imperative that they are supported well. We now meet monthly at my house where we reflect, do some training and have fun. I recognise my limitations in personally effectively supporting them all so I have recently launched a mentoring scheme. Mentoring, is something I'm passionate about and convinced is actually what making disciples is all about. It is simply about investing our life in someone else with the aim to help them reach their Christ given potential – something surely we are all seeking to do. Therefore, I'd like to thank the following people who are starting to mentor our Cell leaders: David Thomas, Henry Guy, Les Birch, Lizzie Telfer, Patrick Colbert, Rosie Halford, Vikki Connolly and Paula Fairbairn,

St A's Youth Service

Uxbridge High

St Andrew's School

HILLINGDON DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Over the year the Hillingdon Deanery Synod met three times. At the meeting in July Sadie Wright was elected Lay Chairman, Helen Ogilvie, Treasurer and Rev Charles Sargent, Chris Terry, Tony Sheffield and Allison Rollen were elected to the Standing Committee. Fred Teather was elected Lay Secretary at the beginning of the October meeting.

There were two presentations at the July meeting. The main one was by Kate Waddecar from The Children's Society and she indicated the many ways in which The Children's Society can help youth workers in planning activities and in networking for youth workers who may sometimes feel isolated. The second 'five minute presentation' was given by Caz on 'Footprints' on behalf of Gill Hodgson.

At the October meeting the main presentation was given by Rev Neil Evans (Director of Training and Development in the Willesden Area and Director of Professional Development in the Diocese of London) on Mission and Outreach giving members much to think about with regard to the future in many areas of church life. Hilary Stone, Deanery Synod Representative on the Hillingdon Standing Committee for Religious Education spoke of her work on that council and of the aims of religious education in Hillingdon.

The main presentation at the February meeting was to be on 'Common Concerns in a Secular Society' by Asgar Halim Rajput, Muslim Chaplain at Brunel University, but unfortunately he was unable to attend. Two other items took over the greater part of the meeting. The first was on the recent changes to Deanery Synod representation which gives a larger representation for larger churches - roughly one representative per 50 members of the Electoral Roll. Uxbridge Team Ministry is now allowed 8! It was agreed that this change caused disparity in representation of large and small congregations and a consequent effect on membership of PCCs of parishes with large electoral rolls - Deanery Synod representatives are automatically members of their PCC. The meeting agreed that this should be taken back to Diocesan Synod for further consideration.

The other item was a brief discussion on an update on Resourcing Mission and Ministry from the Area Council. A more detailed discussion of this will take place at a future Deanery Synod meeting.

(FWT 7/4/09)

PCC WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY REPORT FOR APRIL 2009 APCM

This group continues to arrange a varied calendar of events to give a spiritual rhythm across the parish.

This group arranges the quiet days and the prayer week in May. When we arrange those who lead the days we try to get someone with a broadness of spirituality so they encompass the richness of the people's spirituality across the parish.

We welcomed Lizzie Telfer to be part of this group to share her experiences of 24-7 prayer. She presented a power point presentation and the possibilities of this as a parish event (this being part of the prayer week in May 2009).



Outreach Pastoral Workers

As pastoral workers, we continue to see many different people, with a variety of problems and anxieties as they come through our doors each day. Our aim is to welcome them and share God's love with them through listening and engaging with their needs.

Sometimes they need practical help, or we may suggest they contact other agencies i.e. Age Concern, Emergency Housing. At other times we may offer prayer and ongoing support by being willing to listen and be alongside them in whatever they are experiencing. Where appropriate we try to encourage people to attend church services and other groups – e.g. Footprints, Praymates etc.

We both really value the support we receive from the volunteers and staff team, as it is great to be working together in God's service.

Tina Rapson and Shirley Hills



Coffee Bar Manager's Report 2009

In this time of very uncertain economic climate, I find it encouraging that we are still busy in the coffee bar. We serve those who are affected most by the price rises we have seen over the recent months, yet they do not reap the benefits from any mortgage interest rate cuts or VAT cuts (they are not great spenders) yet they still feel they want to visit the coffee bar. We must be doing something right in the caring and inviting atmosphere that makes them want to come back time after time, despite our own price rises. I also feel encouraged by the people who come to us for help, we have seen people change and grow as we gently help them cope with their problems and try to guide them towards God and a more meaningful life. I have also seen an increase in volunteers who come to us seeking something more than just giving back to society. They need love, encouragement and purpose in their lives and it is encouraging that they can find that at St. Margaret's.

Patrick joined the staff team last year in the capacity of Saturday Coffee Bar Manager to give support and continuity to the volunteer staff, and has been a great asset in his ministry to the visitors at St. Margaret's church.

We have also seen achievement in the the area of health and safety. We undergo surprise visits for assessment from the Environmental Health Department of the local authority every year or so, and we were visited last October. We have to be compliant in many areas of food safety and be meticulous in record keeping in this area. We were very pleased to receive a food hygiene rating certificate of five stars, "very high standards of food safety management. Fully compliant with food safety legislation"

Carrie Moore

Church Wardens Report for St Andrews Church **year ending 31st March 2009**



We have had a very successful year at St Andrew's and the Church Wardens would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have given their time and effort in helping us to maintain and improve the church and hall. Special thanks must go to David Skelton, Malcolm Edginton, Laurence Frankel and Sally Clargo for their exceptional service.

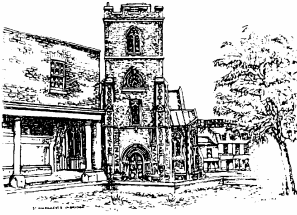
Highlights of this year have been the new kitchen which is fully functional (however we are still looking at the floor area outside). This has proved to be a tremendous asset to our hall. Two internal cleaning days and an extension to the car park with removal of trees and the building of a new bank with sleepers. Regular cutting of the grass and maintenance of the gardens has taken place over the year and has greatly enhanced the outlook of the church and parking area. Gutter maintenance is proving very successful with the Company concerned providing photographs of the work carried out has resulted in work being completed in regard to re-pointing of brickwork, repair and replacement of pipe work. Repair to one main roof dormer. We also suffered a lighting strike this year which caused damage to the alarm system and the organ (discovered 10:00am on Sunday morning). A new alarm system and electric boards to the organ were replaced.

We have had some minor damage in the Gentleman's toilet and the flush mechanism has been completely replaced. Minor work has also been done to some of the loose tiles in the church floor and a faulty heater has been repaired

We have an ongoing investigation into the dampness in the Chapel which has involved a drain survey and holes being dug around outside of the church to try and find out the cause. We have to date found one broken drain. There is also a problem with the down pipe which will also need to be repaired.

After much discussion we have approval from the PCC to go ahead with a new floor for the church. We are in the process of beginning fund raising to replace expenditure for this work.

Church Wardens
St Andrews Uxbridge
7th April 2009



St Margaret's Church Wardens' Report 2009

This has been a somewhat challenging year in the life of our church building. While all efforts are made to keep the fabric of the church in good order, it has become apparent that sections of the stonework have fallen into a state of disrepair over a long period of time. We have had the damage assessed and the cost of repairs will be in the region of £105,000. While this is a daunting sum of money, we have a team in place that are investigating the possibility of grant support and fund raising in general. We would very much value your prayers as we embark on this important and costly project.

The church council has recently agreed to the installation of a lift that will allow wheelchair access to the upper rooms. Several proposals are under consideration, and we hope to inform the congregations shortly how we intend to proceed.

After several sections of our beautiful stained glass windows were damaged in the recent past, we have decided to protect the most vulnerable window on the south side of the church with a mesh screen. Although visible on the outside of the church, the screen will be barely discernable from inside the building and there will be no reduction in the level of light shining in.

Finally, we offer another huge vote of thanks to Carrie Moore and her team. The work they do on our behalf to ensure the smooth running of the church is truly awesome. This was admirably demonstrated after the recent break in and robbery at the church. Despite the mayhem caused, the coffee bar was open for business the day after this unfortunate event – a quite remarkable and inspirational feat given the damage and heartache felt in the immediate aftermath.

Gill and Martin.

Ringling Report for 2008



In 2008 we were saddened to lose Eric as a ringer. It transpired that he was unable to hear the bells as individual notes – he said all he heard was a ‘mush’.

We are gradually improving our ringing with the continued help of Gregor McClean from Harrow who comes nearly every Friday.

Our quarter peal ringing for the Tuesday Lunchtime service continued. We rang ten quarter peals in 2008. My continued thanks to all those ‘retired’ people who came to help, with special thanks to Mike Palmer and David and Lucy Woodward who kept the ringing in order for us. June has been asked for a list of ‘special’ dates in 2009 when she would like us to ring.

We dedicated the September quarter to Frances Molyneux, a daughter to Richard and Louise.

We rang at both churches for the (rainy) Palm Sunday Procession, and rang the 2009 New Year in at St Margaret's.

We rang for three weddings at St. Margaret's. Visitors from the Ladies Guild and the Universities Association rang at both churches. St Margaret's hosted the Middlesex Association striking competition in October.

My thanks as always to all for your commitment, without which ringing would be impossible.

Steeple-Keepers' Reports For 2008

1 St Margaret's

One of the bolts holding the stay on the 7th bell came loose and was refitted. No other work was needed. The projected ‘work day’ didn't materialise as Geoff Willis who organises them is recovering from surgery.

St Andrew's

The clock has had its annual maintenance by Gillett and Johnson.

Last year we reported that the new ropes were very stiff. Following an article in the Ringing World, the tail ends (the length below the sally) were softened by soaking them in the bath and drying on a radiator (twice). Except for one very rainy spell when all ropes stiffen up, they have stayed flexible.

Thanks as always to Colin and Ann for all their help and encouragement with maintenance and cleaning at both towers.

Alan Rix / Colin Hunt



St. Andrews Junior Church

The last year has, as always, been very lively and busy as far as children's activities are concerned and first of all I would like to take the opportunity to thank the wonderful team of dedicated, enthusiastic leaders who are involved with Junior Church. Without them nothing would be possible and some of the leaders are there every week leading or helping in groups – **THANK YOU.**

Over the last year there have on average been 30-40 children from pre-school to teenagers each week. During the course of the year we have had some weeks when all the Junior Church have come together for joint activities ranging from craft to the inevitable end of term parties (which accounts for their excitability when they return to church).

We have had a couple of fund raising events this year, a cake and craft sale using many items made by the children themselves and also breakfast before the 10 o'clock service cooked by X-treme and supervised (well who else would it be) by Sally Clargo!

The period immediately before Christmas is always one of the busiest as the children are making decorations for the tree and also practising for a presentation in church during the December Family Service. Again this year our Mary and Joseph Posada figures made their Advent visit to homes of members of the congregation (not only those with children) and were accompanied by a digital camera.

As well as the December presentation we were involved in October for Harvest (making bread in church for use at communion) and March for Mothering Sunday, May, June and July. It has been very busy!

We are always pleased to welcome new members to the team so if anyone feels they would like to become involved with any aspect of Junior Church activities please speak to me – the more the merrier!!

Carol Connolly
Junior Church Co-Ordinator

Rise n shine group (60+age)



This group formed in September 2008. I (Rosie) have visited many people in this age group, through just a general visit or supporting them with a particular need or through Home communions.

One of the things that was said occasionally when I visited was that there was not a specific group for the older generation that meets up. This did keep appearing as an item to be looked at on our pastoral care agenda, but I was concerned that I didn't want to set up a group as I was trying not to take on anything new. In the summer Jackie Westbrook who works in the community, maintaining gardens and is in contact with a lot of older people in the community said about our older folk and getting them together. Now Was God nudging! I shared some thoughts with her and she was also keen to see where the idea of meeting up occasionally would go. We also approached Barbara and David Skelton who could help us with ideas and suitable activities that may work with this group. Barbara and David Skelton help with transport and making the tea and other aspects of this group.

We contacted all of those we knew at St Andrew's and invited them along in September 2008 for an initial meeting. We wanted this to be their group, so directed by what they would be interested in doing. They were keen to meet up. To set up a group that initially meets up to five to six times a year to have time together.

We have now met 3 times. In November St Andrews school choir came and sang some festive songs and afternoon tea was served. In February we had a Quiz afternoon. This month we had Clair Howell talk about her work with Hillingdon Careline and how the scheme works.

This is a very informal group and though it meets up at St Andrews church hall is open to anyone who is 60+.

Rosie Halford, Jackie Westbrook, Barbara and David Skelton