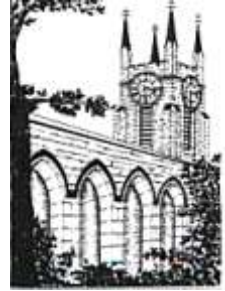


NORBURY PARISH CHURCH



REPORTS FOR 2009

to be presented at the Church APCM
at 7.45pm
on Monday, 19th April 2010

Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Appointment of clerk to the meeting
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Formal matters arising
6. Electoral Roll secretary's report
7. Churchwardens' report
8. PCC Secretary's report
9. Treasurer's report
10. Other reports
11. Appointment of independent examiners of PCC accounts
12. Appointment of Tellers
13. Election of Wardens
14. Election of PCC members
15. Election of Sidespeople
16. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
17. Items for discussion; arising out of the report for the year
18. Any other business
19. Closing prayer

Norbury Parish Church

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 19th April, 2009

1. The meeting took place in the church following a shortened Communion Service (between 65 and 70 attendees)
2. **Clerk to the Meeting** – Maureen Hughes was appointed
3. **Apologies** – Joan and Jim Garfitt, Candy Stokes
4. **Minutes of the APCM held on 27th April, 2008** – Approved
5. **Matters Arising** – None
6. **Electoral Roll Secretary's Report**
The revision of the Electoral Roll took place during March 2009. The total number on the Roll is now 446. This is a decrease of four from last year. Nine names were removed from the Electoral Roll (through death or because people moved away from the area) and five new names were added.
7. **Churchwardens' Report** – Accepted and thanks given to Rob Green and Staff Team for their assistance during the vacancy.
8. **PCC Secretary's Report** – Accepted
9. **Treasurer's Report**
Before giving his report the Treasurer informed the church that new legislation required that the church must be registered as an independent charity meaning that PCC members would be trustees of the charity. David Scott gave a summary of the accounts, which had been available before the meeting, with charts and diagrams etc. to show the main figures visually. Brief summary given below.
Overall, balance dropped by £21,600
Current assets fell by £14,000 to £129,500 (cash, bank, savings and stock)
Fixed assets fell by £680 (Garden of Remembrance plots used)
Money balance fell to £106,500.
It was stressed that giving on a regular basis by Gift Aid, for those who paid tax, and standing orders/envelopes were the most beneficial ways of giving to the church.
The trend towards lower income continues into 2009 with giving down 10% in the first quarter of 2009 compared with 2008. Based on 200 regular givers, approximately £13.15 per person per week is needed to cover expenses, but the amount actually received is £11.25 per person so the short fall is approximately £1.90 per person per week.
The church magazine was running at a loss and discussions were ongoing regarding the future and format of the magazine. Final decisions on this to

be made in September 2009 with the new vicar involved. The Treasurer thanked all the helpers who worked with him on a regular basis with particular thanks to Per Olsson and Victoria Fryman (Independent Examiner). All attendees at the APCM gave a vote of thanks to David Scott for his commitment and expertise in dealing with the church accounts. The treasurer informed the church that he anticipated retiring from his position as treasurer at the end of December 2009 and hoped that a new treasurer would be available to take over from January 2010.

10. **Other Reports** – Accepted
11. **Appointment of independent examiner of PCC accounts.** Victoria Fryman is unlikely to be able to examine the accounts next year
12. **Appointment of Tellers** – Not necessary
13. **Election of Wardens.** Michael Cheslett and Jill Elsby were elected unopposed. They were thanked for their work during the year.
14. **Election of PCC members.** There were 13 nominations – all elected as follows:- Sarah Casey, Margaret Darbyshire, Maureen Hughes, Phil Hyde, Martin Johnson, Susan Jones, John Millington, Rob Moulton, Margaret Nolan, David Scott, Sylvia Scott, Stuart Shawcross, Trevor Tinson.
15. **Election of Sidespeople.** Sidespeople were elected as follows: John Bennett, Patricia Butler, Winn Cameron, Faith Clarke, Margaret Darbyshire, Irene Davies, Irene Fox, Nancy Hadfield, Linda Hammond, Betty Hubbert, Albert Hudson, Maureen Hughes, Kathleen Pierson, Wilf Tonge
16. **Items for discussion arising out of the report for the year** – None.
17. **Any Other Business.** John Bennett wished to thank the churchwardens and others involved with the interregnum and the process of choosing a new vicar.
18. This part of the meeting closed with prayer.

The meeting then adjourned to the Legh Room for a bring and share lunch and to discuss *The Church in the Community*.

Welcome to this year's Annual Reports booklet!

The reports that follow give a window into some of the many facets of life at Norbury, and many of the activities at the heart of our church life. There is a balance of long established groups and events, and recent innovations which have ushered in some interesting changes. Norbury is a church where we try to balance the old and the new – the traditional and the contemporary, both in terms of worship and of the groups and campaigns which we are nurturing.

There is a wonderful, committed team of people in our church, not just paid members of staff of course, but large numbers of volunteers, who serve the church with such dedication and generosity, often doing the unseen jobs behind the scenes, and often at significant cost in time and energy. But there is always more to be done, and always new people needed to fill roles. A large operation like Norbury Parish Church requires great commitment from all its members, supporting each other, and living out our faith in service. All of what we do we do for Christ and his kingdom of love.

These are challenging times, with churches under pressure socially and financially, and we are all called to make real sacrifices for Christ. We are greatly blessed in so many ways, and are grateful for all the wonderful things that God is doing among us. We must continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the months ahead.

On a personal note, Brenda and I are so grateful for the welcome and support we have received over our first few months here. It's a joy to be here and serving alongside you all. Thank you to you all, for everything you do.

I hope you will enjoy reading what follows, and be encouraged and challenged by what you find.

Richard Lawry

Worship

Flower Arrangers

The flower team has lost one of its most talented flower arrangers. Jill Heron has moved down to Devon to be nearer her son and we wish her well in her new home.

We are very pleased to welcome back Mary Gould who has recovered well from her operation last year. We also welcome a newcomer, Irene Chappell, who is paired with Freda Mason. This still leaves two of our arrangers working on their own. Could you help on a Friday or Saturday, once in 6 or 7 weeks? You do not have to be an expert. Most volunteers are enthusiastic amateurs.

The displays at Easter, Harvest and Christmas were very much appreciated and remarked upon. We know that the church family admires the work done each week by the flower arrangers, but we really do need some more helpers.

Anyone interested should contact Pam Orton (0161 483 4557). For donations contact Ann Tinson (0161 292 2397).

Ann Tinson

Open Doors

Open Doors is now covered from 9am on Saturday mornings in order to fit in with the Clergy Hour, and the Saturday rota will now run through August at the request of the Clergy. We are very short of volunteers despite requests for help via the Take Away and the magazine.

Graeme Potts

Worship and Teaching Committee

A number of changes were made to the overall service pattern and to the content of certain services. The desire was to balance the service pattern, and to enhance the breadth of worship within services.

We introduced a broader blend of traditional and contemporary music and worship within most main services, so the piano and music group are now used for contemporary songs, alongside the organ and choir for traditional hymns, and a balance between formal and informal in provision both morning and evening. Traditional Choral Evensong was moved back to a regular time of 6.30pm.

We have started the process of renewing and replacing orders of services for the different services, including Communion booklets for the different seasons of the church year, beginning with Advent. Our thanks to Liz and Sam Snape, who are producing these booklets at no cost to the church.

The children in Sunday Club and Pathfinders now join the adults in church for the start of services, before going to their own groups, and returning later. This has enhanced a sense of the whole church family being, and belonging, together.

The various channels for teaching and spiritual growth include Fellowship Groups, Alpha Course, Start Course, as well as the monthly Stillpoint Meditation and other services.

Richard Lawry

Choir

During the last year the choir has, as usual, sung at most of the Sunday morning services and at the monthly choral evensong. The morning services have always been well attended but often we have struggled with choir numbers at the evening services which on many occasions have been performed in unison rather than in three or four part harmony.

The choir has sung at a number of weddings during the year and has already had some booking for 2010. Normally we get a good turn out for weddings and keep adding to the repertoire of anthems performed.

The number of choir members has remained steady over the last few years and recently we have gained a new member (Gerard) who sings tenor. But unfortunately we have lost a soprano - Brenda who has retired from the choir and joined the congregation. Recently the vicar has made a valuable contribution to the choir when his clerical duties have permitted as has his wife, Brenda. At the moment we have a strong bass section but could do with another tenor (or two) and at least one other soprano. New members would be very welcome. The choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm.

David Sanders

Music Group

The Music Group continues to provide music for many services thanks to having an excellent team of musical leaders, singers and instrument players.

This year we have welcomed some new members; these include of course Richard and Brenda! They bring with them considerable musical experience including worship leading. Both have commented how lucky we are at Norbury to have so many talented and willing musicians. I think Norbury is also lucky to have their experience and enthusiasm! Changes to the music pattern for services have already been made, for example music group singers are leading a selection of songs at morning services. We look to provide an appropriate balance of musical styles to support worship and look to introduce new ideas and approaches to keep this fresh and relevant.

We always welcome new members of any age, this year we have been joined by Gerard (who also has boosted the tenors in the choir), and William who is a flautist with great potential.

As well as the regular services, there are always particular highlights during the year. In particular at Christmas, we joined forces again with the choir to perform “Kings of Orient” at the Carol Service; delighted(!) the shoppers at Sainsbury’s with carol singing; and the Christingle service was as lively as ever!

In October, we performed in a “Just Worship” event with 2 other Music Groups at Hazel Grove Baptist Church. It was wonderful to share our music with others, and also for Norbury’s Music Group and other members of our congregation to enjoy and gain new ideas from music performed by the other groups.

Any further musical talent or ideas for developing music at Norbury are always welcomed – please contact David Duke (0161 439 3754).

David Duke

Adult Groups

Mothers’ Union Report

The two groups here at Norbury have 85 members between them and are part of a world wide membership of 3.6 million in 78 countries. We have many fund raising events throughout the year for Mothers’ Union projects at home and abroad.

In January, 16 members from the Chadkirk Deanery travelled to Chester Cathedral when our new Diocesan President, Angela Klabou was commissioned.

Norbury members help at the Toddler Group, collect goods for Brindale House, which is a short stay women's refuge, and knit for premature babies at Macclesfield Hospital. We organise refreshments at the church Christmas Fair and a service at Shepley House.

We need to encourage younger people to join us to be able to say the future is bright.

*Irene Fox, Branch Leader
Margaret Holt, Evening Group Secretary*

Men's Society

2009 was a year of continued success but, I emphasise, all progress and achievement was, and is, founded on the loyalty and industry of our members. They are role models for Service, with a capital 'S'. The majority, having reached 'retirement age', never wait to be asked to help with this and that enterprise. They enjoy working together. I am proud of them.

Our annual Service of Rededication took place on Sunday, 25th October and was conducted by our 'new' Vicar, Revd Richard Lawry. Richard had already accepted our invitation to become our next President and has since taken a keen interest in our endeavours. We were pleased to see Richard and Brenda at our Hot Pot Supper.

Our monthly meetings during 2009 provided us with a varied fare. We started the year on the back of a camel, led by Gordon Ashworth, through the unfurling flags of all nations, back to take a closer look at the streets of Stockport. One outstanding visit was by Mr Peter de Bourcier, whose presentation on the Mission Aviation Fellowship inspired us to commit our Society and, hopefully, our congregation to a more positive response to their call for help. Mr. Peter Pilbeam visited us on two occasions during the year ; firstly, to publicise the work of SSAFA and, later, to reveal what is involved in being a producer of radio programmes for the BBC. The 2009 speakers' programme signed off suitably, with a talk on Calligraphy.

Both Plant Sales did exceedingly well and continued support from our customers is much appreciated. Norman Allen, having served his apprenticeship, has now

taken over as Norbury's Percy Thrower and is in charge of both operations.

The first annual Hot Pot Supper was an unqualified success. The 70 in attendance were very appreciative of the excellent food and Graham Harradine's humorous presentation. Afterwards, Graham told me how impressed he was by the occasion and the very friendly atmosphere which prevailed. Our second Hot Pot Supper will take place on Monday 1st November, when 'Top of the Bill' will be Brenda (Lawry) and Friends in a musical presentation. Tickets will be available later in the year.

Early in December we organised our traditional Christmas Party, with party games, quizzes, Norman's animals competition and the first public appearance of "Allen and Hopkins" and their "leaking receptacle". I understand it took days for 'Allen' to remove his makeup. I think he got quite attached to it.

From a suggestion made by John Bennett, the Men's Society designed and purchased special commemorative beakers for Norbury's 175th Anniversary. They were presented as a gift to the children at Norbury and the rest of our order were sold at a very reasonable price. The bone china beakers displayed a picture of the church and relevant dates.

Our largest donation of £500 was made to the Tree House at Stepping Hill Hospital, and our contribution to the Norbury Christmas Fair, in gifts to the stall and ticket sales, was £153. We also continued our tradition of making a contribution of £200 towards the salary of the Youth Worker. The cost of replacing the ropes on the tower flagpole was met with a significant contribution of £150 from the Men's Society. Financial support was also given to SSAFA and the Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Jim Garfitt, Chairman

Operation Christmas Child, Shoe Box Appeal

Norbury had another successful year with the Shoe Box Project in 2009. Our 28 dedicated Shoe Box members, Clergy, PCC, friends, and church members helped to send 271 boxes from the Norbury, with the wider community and other groups bringing the total to 381.

Just to remind you that we sent out the following:

- boxes to the Ukraine, Swaziland, Romania, Serbia and Belarus. Our aim for 2010 is to raise the total from Norbury to 300. Can we do it?
- We held many events throughout the year to raise the necessary £800 which included coffee mornings, a beetle drive, a Dutch auction with a prize bingo session, all much enjoyed by those who supported these events.
- Plans are afoot to have another coffee morning in May to kick start our fund raising this year; you are welcome to come along and support us.
- The shoe box team were invited in January to visit Bridge College to see the students at work and play, and enjoy afternoon tea accompanied by a student concert. This was a memorable occasion for all of us, and we will welcome the students to Norbury in late November when they bring their shoe boxes.

To all knitters - You did a fantastic job of providing so many pairs of mitts, hats, scarves and gloves for the boxes last year. **Thank you, can this be repeated for 2010?** From Saturday 6th March, there will be knitting patterns and wool available in the narthex for you to help yourself to, or better still, come and join us on a Saturday morning and see how we organise this fun project. The Shoe Boxes bring joy and happiness to vulnerable children around the world.

May I ask you to keep these children and our project in your prayers.

Ann Smith

Children and Young People's Groups

Youth Group

There is a great core of young people, who meet on Sunday evenings as the CYFA youth group, coming together for an hour and a half of fun, friendship and Christian learning. They are guided by leaders, but have a considerable input themselves into the issues they look at and events they help with. There are around a dozen who have been coming recently, of whom perhaps half a dozen are regulars.

The group had been, for the last few years, in the capable hands of our Youth Worker, Catie-Anne Harper. When Catie-Anne went on maternity leave, the reins were taken up by Jenny Eden, Vicky Barrett and Tony Roberts, who did an

excellent job until they themselves needed to withdraw at the end of 2009. Early in 2010, Ann Whitehead kindly took over, supported by Rob Green, Richard Lawry, and Pam Southcombe. Our thanks go to them all for their work in this key area of church life, and especially to Catie-Anne for all her hard work and achievements over the last few years.

Richard Lawry

Children's Worker

Children's work at Norbury is still thriving and lots of things are constantly happening. Last year we were busy with many different events and activities all proving popular with the children. This report will cover everything that I am involved in with children at Norbury.

Messy Church - This new venture started in March 2009 and has been a fantastic success. On average, about 100 children and adults attend each Messy session. We chill, create, celebrate in church and chomp (eat tea together). We follow a theme for each month and all crafts and the service are based on that theme. There are 143 children from 70 families on the Messy Register.

Messy church has a dedicated team of 21 helpers but we could do with more, both for the session, setting it up and clearing away. Messy does not mean the mess we make but how we reach out to the messy edges of life; life is not straightforward and we aim to make Church and God accessible through this activity.

All Age Worship – These services are going very well and are a great way of involving children from various groups within the church, and providing an accessible service for those that are trying to find a way into the church family

Assemblies – I conduct assemblies in four primary schools in Hazel Grove, Norbury Hall, Moorfield, Hazel Grove and Torkington, totalling five assemblies a month. Other school activities include school visits to church and involvement with school events at church e.g., the Carol services. In all, by means of these school activities I have contact with around 1,350 children each month.

Nativity Celebration - This was on Monday 14th December and was a great success. There were over 30 pre-school children present and lots of adults. The children joined in willingly, and having an angel as Mary and having far more than three kings was not a problem. What is usually a chaotic service amazingly resulted in a peaceful nativity scene.

Cath Palmer

Toddler Group

We now have two thriving groups on both Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon, with 85 adults and 125 children being on the register between the two groups. I appreciate all the help the ladies give in the kitchen keeping the adults and children supplied with drinks and biscuits. We have singing every week including "Happy Birthdays" for any children with a birthday that week, and crafts on alternate weeks. I run this on a voluntary basis as extra to my official work, and I really enjoy it. It keeps me in touch with the world, so to speak, and is a valuable link to everything else I do.

Cath Palmer

Sunday Club

At present we have 48 children on the register with an average attendance of 25 a week. In September three children moved up to the Pathfinders group. In April we went on our annual weekend away at Savio House in Bollington. The theme of the weekend was "Bravery". We are going again in March this year when we will have an Easter theme.

In December we had another much loved annual event, our Christmas Party, a traditional one of silly games, lots of food including jelly and ice cream and finishing off with party poppers and singing "We wish you a merry Christmas."

Monthly Saturday activities have been limited due to both the children and myself being busier than ever. However, several events held in the school holidays are well attended. A shortage of leaders continues to be a matter of concern. We need more, especially men. The 11 current leaders are all female, and, when required, several parents help out.

Cath Palmer

Holiday Club

Holiday Club 2009 was a wonderful success. The theme was “Landlubbers” and was based on the adventures of Jim Lad, Fancy Nancy and Fez the Parrot who were searching for their friends Colin the Camel and Grizzly the Bear. The villain, Captain Jack Bladderwrack, was eventually persuaded that the true treasure in life is the love of God and not gold. They learnt from the adventures of Paul as found in Philippians.

106 children attended, and 78 adults and teenagers were involved during the week. We had the usual mix of songs, teaching, prayers, drama, crafts and jokes, with lots of fun and laughter along the way and great friendships being formed. This year’s club will be from 16th – 20th August with a theme of “Showstoppers” which will be looking at Gods great plan for salvation based on five stories from the Old and New Testaments.

Cath Palmer

Norbury Brigade Company 2884

The Company membership is very slowly increasing with a total membership of around 20 including staff. The Company meets every other week due to staff commitments, and this arrangement will continue until we recruit more leaders. We are desperate to recruit more male leaders; we would also like more female leaders.

My thanks goes to the Company staff: Karen, Mel, Linda, Lisa, Diane and Callum for all their efforts during the last year, and to Norman Allen for his continuing support to the Company.

My thanks must also go to the parents of our members for their support and also to the family of the church at Norbury who support the Company in so many ways. Hopefully during the next year we will see the Company grow in strength and prosper.

*Dave Wood MBE
Acting Company Commanding Officer.*

Nurture and Growth

The Prayer Chain

Do you know anyone who is ill or in difficulty? Would you like a group of people to pray for them? The prayer chain operates at 6.30pm each evening, when the members of the prayer chain pray for any request we have received. All requests are treated in strictest confidence and will only be shared with members of the prayer chain.

Prayer works - so why not give the prayer chain a try! If you want any further information or have a prayer request, please contact Jean Wilkes on 01625 874904.

Jean Wilkes

Prayer Visiting

Since the start of Prayer Visiting in October 2005 we have visited a little over half the homes in the parish. However, progress is slow because the parish is large but the size of the visiting team is small and not all can take part every month. At the present rate of working we should have finished the first round of the parish by mid 2012.

We go out one Sunday afternoon per month to a selection of roads where cards have been delivered during the previous week. We invite those we visit to give us topics for inclusion in the prayers in church on the following Sunday. It is very rare to get anything other than a very positive reaction, although of course not everyone has something for us to include. We always come back to church with a worthwhile list of items. While we are out a team of church members wait patiently back at the church praying for those engaged in the visiting, something we very much value when we are out. All who take part find this a most rewarding activity. We value greatly the prayerful support we receive from many members of the congregation but we would also greatly value a few more volunteers to join the visiting team.

Alan Brown

Alpha Course

This year's Alpha Course, now very well established at Norbury, was attended by 17 people (after 3 had to withdraw early on). This was done over 9 weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings between January and March, plus the Saturday Away-Day, held at St Paul's Church, Strines. There was a good mix of old and new faces; apart from the 4 leaders (Richard and Brenda Lawry, Val Gilchrist and Margaret Darbyshire), there were 4 participants already known to us at Norbury, and 9 people more or less new to the church. The sessions began each week with a two-course meal. We were greatly indebted to our marvellous resident chef Graeme Potts, and to the wonderful team of servers, organized by Mo Hughes! In the customary way, the meal was followed by a DVD presentation and then discussion in small groups.

This report was written while the course was still running. But early feedback showed how much people were enjoying being together, and learning about the Christian faith. One participant has already indicated a desire to go forward for confirmation.

Thanks to all those involved – participants, leaders, and catering staff – for making the course such a valuable and valued experience.

Richard Lawry

Welcome Stewards

As in previous years I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are on the rota for their time and effort as they spend their Sunday mornings helping new people find their way around our church.

It is a proven fact that if visitors do not feel welcomed and recognised after only a few visits then they are likely never to return. Therefore the role of our Welcome Stewards is vital as they meet and greet visitors on arrival, and after the service to offer information and introductions to other church members. If you think that you can help in this valuable work please see one of the churchwardens.

Jill Elsby and Michael Cheslett, Churchwardens

Baptism/Thanksgiving Team

The total number of Baptisms in 2009 was 45 of which, 26 were under 1 year, 17 over 1 year and under 10 years, 1 aged 10 years and 1 over 13 years. The total number of Thanksgivings in 2009 were 4.

During 2009 we had a team of 9 committed Baptism visitors. Sadly this will be reduced to 8 in 2010 and we hope that people will be interested in joining the team. Pam Southcombe, Sylvia Scott and Margaret Darbyshire give a talk at the Baptism service.

The Baptism preparation meeting available to parents and godparents which is held on the last Monday in the month, now consists of showing the video with a demonstration and talk about the service given by Ann Smith. It has been attended by Richard in the last few months and this has proved to be very popular and beneficial to all concerned.

I have help in writing and delivering the anniversary cards from members of the church family for which I am very grateful.

Lesley Hubbard

Pastoral Care

2009 has been a very eventful year for pastoral work at Norbury and our thanks go to all our teams namely the clergy, churchwardens, staff team, baptism team, flower team, mix and mingle, Open Doors, pastoral care, sidespersons, welcome stewards, and all others who offer care, support and a listening ear without belonging to any specific group. This is a true witness of God calling each one of us to love and care for each other and all of you reflect this in your dedication and faithfulness. Thank you.

Our congratulations and very best wishes are offered to Margaret Darbyshire who has now become a Licensed Pastoral Worker and diligently carries out her pastoral care duties with love and compassion as well as studying at the same time.

Norbury is in the happy position of having two licensed pastoral workers at present, we have reviewed our responsibilities and there are now two well defined roles. Margaret's responsibilities will be with all the adult congregation, and mine will be concentrating on the Baptism families, children's groups and

their families, and supporting the helpers and leaders of these groups. We would value your prayers in carrying out these two roles.

Ann Smith

Pastoral Care continues to be administered in all its forms from dedicated members of the Pastoral Care Team and individual church members. Areas covered are the taped sermons, administering home communions, visiting the sick, lonely, the hospitalised and the bereaved.

- Shepley House - services are arranged by Betty Hubbert, and Wilf Tonge visits when delivering the church magazine. Irene Davies visits once a month, more often when available, she visits each unit and talks with residents. Margaret Darbyshire takes communion to two residents.
- Edwards Court - Irene Davies, Brenda Harkin, Wendy Sykes arrange two services a year and Jean Lindsey recites poems. Brenda Harkin takes communion to a number of residents.
- Grove Lodge - Val Gilchrist and Margaret Darbyshire arrange four services a year.
- Wendy Sykes and team arrange services for Sandra Broadbent.
- Home Communion members carry out visits every two months for the housebound, we have 25 communicants at present.
- The Open Doors members provide a further listening service to all who visit the church during its open times
- Another valuable service that perhaps comes under the wider umbrella of pastoral care, is the street visiting scheme for prayer requests. People involved in the delivering of cards, visiting homes, with supporters back at church praying throughout the visiting time. Another great team of dedicated people.

Thank you to each of you for your caring, concern, visiting and prayers. Please inform Margaret if you or someone you know needs a visit, is in hospital or would like to become a member of this Pastoral Care Team.

Margaret Darbyshire
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
 0161 487 2538

Fellowship/Homegroups

Throughout 2009, various Groups met at church or in homes around the parish, either fortnightly or monthly. One group meets on a Tuesday afternoon, the others in the evenings on Wednesdays or Fridays. Individual groups choose their own subject material so that the needs of each group can be better met. Meetings provide an inclusive, warm and non-threatening environment for exploration and discussion. There is an opportunity to ask questions about issues of belief and faith and to share the experiences of others.

New members are always assured of a warm welcome and there is plenty of fun and fellowship. If you would like to try out a group, please speak to Trevor Tinson (0161 292 2397).

Trevor Tinson

Norbury "Home Service" (Making Taped Sermons Available)

Now in its 13th year, the Norbury "Home Service" is still supplying recordings of the Sunday morning service on tape. They include prayers, readings, hymns and sermon, and are distributed to housebound parishioners. Anybody who is unable to attend Norbury services by reason of physical impairment, not necessarily long-term, is entitled to receive a copy. I will also make a tape for any member of the congregation who wishes to hear a sermon again, or who wants to keep a copy. There is no charge, and I have a small tape-player which is available for a short-term loan.

The tapes, and copies of the Take Away, are normally delivered three times per month, on the Tuesday following the service, (there are no tapes for the All-Age Worship service).

My thanks to Vera Buckley and Wendy Williamson for their continued support, and to Wendy Sykes for her "courier" services to Sandra Broadbent.

Harry (Robbie) Robinson.

Mix and Mingle

Having recently taken on the coordination of the Mix and Mingle teams, I would like to thank Betty Hubbert for her work as coordinator over many years.

Since May 2009, Cath Palmer has been ordering supplies. Tea, coffee and sugar are Fairtrade (Norbury is a Fairtrade church), and milk is purchased from a local dairy. Thanks to Maureen Allen for providing delicious homemade cakes from time to time over the last 12 months.

Thank you to all Mix and Mingle team members – a friendly welcome with a good cuppa is much appreciated by our regulars and newcomers/visitors. In June 2009 we welcomed 5 new volunteers, a couple of people ‘retired’, and there were a few changes in the teams. At present, there are 9 teams each with 5 or 6 volunteers; and one all ladies team. People exchange duty dates with someone on another team if their date on the rota is inconvenient. There is also a list of reserves; people who cannot commit themselves on a regular basis, but who are happy to step in if needed. On Mothering Sunday 2010, we have an all gents team, so the ladies can have a week off; hopefully it will be a great success!

Anyone wishing to join one of the teams, gents or ladies, please contact me, so I can include you in the new rota which starts in July. Younger volunteers (teens/students) are welcome.

Hilary Green
Tel. 01625 858680
Hilary.green122@btinternet.com

Sainsbury's Carol Singing

When Revd Martin Collins asked me to organise this event, I was undecided, but with the help of Jimmy Downs and David Duke the 3Ds was formed and we have gone from strength to strength. In 2006 we didn't organise a collection for a charity, however in 2007 we collected for St Ann's Hospice and the following year for Stockport Heart Club. In 2009 Christies Cancer Hospital was the beneficiary of the collection and over the years the number of people supporting us has grown and everyone enjoys the evening. Our vicar Richard and his wife Brenda joined us this year and our thanks also go to Jim Garfitt for the superb photographs he took.

Our appreciation and thanks to everyone who has taken part because without you the event would not be a success.

David Duke, Jimmy Downs and Irene Davies

Administration

Church Wardens

One of our duties is to bring to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting the “Annual Fabric Report”. It is our delight and pleasure to inform you that the buildings and all articles appertaining to the church are in good order as we end the year, apart from the much needed electrical work which will begin during 2010.

We are grateful for the time and energy put in by the members of the Property Management Committee as they keep track of any required maintenance work. Also our thanks to Elizabeth Olsson for her work over the year, which as always, makes life that bit easier for us.

We would like to acknowledge the Deputy Wardens, Sidespeople and Welcome Stewards and thank them for their hard work throughout the year. Without their time and help we would not be able to make the Sunday services run as smoothly as they do.

Jill Elsby and Michael Cheslett, Churchwardens

PCC Secretary's Report

PCC meetings continued this year during the interregnum and were chaired by Rob Green and occasionally the Wardens. This worked well and new initiatives were added to the meeting for discussions, some of our own and some organised by the Diocese, as in The Growth Action Plan (GAP) on which first reports are due to the Diocese early this year. The Children's Worker continues to give regular reports on her work and achievements. The PCC meetings were, in general, well attended.

Mo Hughes

Health and Safety

Norbury has always taken health and safety matters seriously, and in 2009 a comprehensive health and safety procedure was issued. We have now begun the work of implementing the good practices in the procedure, and these should become embedded during the next few years. Increasingly it is our practice to

carry out a Risk Assessment for the activities that we perform, and it is worth noting that a comprehensive fire risk assessment was carried out in 2009.

Jimmy Downs has been appointed our health and safety coordinator. As health and safety is something that affects us all and requires the vigilance of everyone, please give him your support as he fulfils this new role. Norbury has this year been assessed by outside agencies for fire safety and for kitchen standards; in both cases we passed with flying colours. So keep up the good work!

Per Olsson

Gift Aid/Parish Giving

Over the year 2009 there were 154 donors in total who gave £70,060. The tax reclaimed at 20% was £17,515 but this was/will be made up to £19,761 in total under the top-up scheme which ends in 2011. This scheme was introduced by the government to compensate charities for the lower refunds which would have resulted from the lowering of the basic rate of tax from 22% to 20%.

There's not a great deal for me to report on the Parish Giving Officer front. I went on a training course in Bredbury last autumn and there's another one coming up next autumn. These courses are a good opportunity to meet other PGOs, swap ideas and obtain resources. This role is that of facilitator. I am always open to suggestions for fund raising ideas.

If you are a regular giver, a taxpayer and have not yet signed a Gift Aid Declaration, the church would appreciate it very much if you would please join the Gift Aid Scheme. There are forms in the narthex or they can be obtained from me.

Lastly, on behalf of the church, I would like to thank all regular donors for their financial commitment to Norbury over the year.

*Peter Broadbent
Gift Aid Secretary and Parish Giving Officer*

Eco-concern Group

The 'Eco-concern' group was formed to consider how Norbury might fulfil its responsibilities in respect of creation care and developing-world justice. We decided the best way to do this would be to work towards becoming an 'Eco-congregation' and in February this was endorsed by the PCC. Due to various circumstances we got off to a slow start, but by the end of the year we had (more or less) completed an 'eco-audit' of all our activities (which covered everything from worship to washing-up liquid).

Earlier in the year, for our Maundy Thursday bring and share meal we highlighted the LOAF (Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fairtrade) principle in respect of our food choices, as well as changing to Fairtrade Communion wine. In the weeks before December's Copenhagen summit we had an afternoon when we highlighted and prayed about the issues around climate change. The next steps will be to look at, and then act on, the areas where changes are most needed and will have the greatest effect, both in our activities as a church and in our personal lives.

Lesley and Lawrence Dark

Communication

The Magazine

Contrary to the report of twelve months' ago, the magazine continues in its present format at the same price, with two amendments.

1. To save printing costs, the image (photograph) on the front cover will be the same for the full year.
2. Colour printing of advertisements on the inside front cover will generate increased advertisement fees, plus an overall increase of all advertisement fees.

The prospect of an in-house (home) production has been eliminated as not being practical with our resources. Later this year, during August, further thought will be given to future development when increased revenue and costings are assessed.

The magazine is essential to the life of our church as a means of communication;

the written word is still the surest method and provides a permanent record. In this regard we must express our thanks to all involved in producing and distributing the magazine.

John J. Bennett, Magazine Business Manager

Norbury Church Web Site (www.norburypc.org.uk)

The Norbury church web site at www.norburypc.org continues to be updated at least once every month using the church magazine as the main source of new information. PDF format files for the monthly Worship Arrangements and the weekly Take Away are also available on-line. Pages are reviewed and updated as necessary. If you spot any errors or have information especially photographs of church events that you would like to add then please send them to me. The site currently receives around 80 visits a day and over 2000 different visitors each month with the most frequent interest being the pages that give the churchyard records.

David Scott

Wider Church

Churches Together

The year started with the annual senior citizens party at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Sunday lunches are appreciated by people living on their own because sharing a meal with others means such a great deal. The 2009 Unity service was held at the Baptist Church and was attended by a large congregation. Lenten services focusing on "Faith, Hope and Love" had an average attendance of thirty people at each meeting.

As the police no longer patrol parades, the Walk of Witness had to be cancelled at short notice. Stephen Hulmes of the Baptist Church and Irene (Norbury) made arrangements for a "Praise in the Park" event with accompaniment provided by the Salvation Army band. This was followed by a picnic and then on to Norbury Church for the evening service. All who took part were thanked and requests were made for the events to be repeated. Our thanks to everyone who supported us, and to Jim Garfitt for his excellent photographs. A cheque for £150 was sent

to Beechwood Cancer Care Home.

The AGM was held at Norbury on 15th July with a very interesting talk about the Furniture Station given by Mike Atkinson, who was presented with a cheque for £250. It was an overwhelming decision that all collections and donations should go to local causes in future. Our “new” vicar, Revd Richard Lawry was welcomed to the meeting.

Brenda Harkin, Wendy Sykes and Irene Davies continue to hold two services at Edward’s Court annually. A warm welcome from Sandra, the manager, always greets us and John, one of the residents, plays the guitar. Members from other churches take part and next year is our tenth anniversary. Our thanks go to all who support this work.

On Remembrance Sunday, the wreath was placed by Ralph Bramwell from the Baptist Church on behalf of Churches Together. Alan Warrington has led the service year after year despite his failing eyesight and he names all the organisations. On behalf of Churches Together and all the people of Hazel Grove, Irene Davies gave him our thanks.

*Irene Davies, Publicity Officer
Brenda Harkin, Norbury representative*

Women’s World Day of Prayer – March 6th 2009

This year the service was held at Hazel Grove Methodist Church. The service started with the banner being brought forward by Irene Davies and handed to a member of the host church for the next twelve months. The ladies choir, including seven from Norbury were in very good voice. Mrs Dorothy Taylor led the service and Mrs Liz Turner spoke about the Christian women of Papua New Guinea, showing how Christian denominations were working together to spread the love of God. The afternoon finished with tea and biscuits whilst we mingled and talked.

Irene Davies and Wendy Sykes

Worldwide Mission Support

Adoption Matters Northwest

There were 448 enquiries during the year by prospective adopters, and 26 applications were taken forward. The agency ran 9 sets of adoption preparation groups.

631 children were referred to the agency, 40 children were placed during the year and 38 adoption orders were granted. One disruption occurred and 82 children in placement received ongoing support.

The agency provides counselling for birth families and post adoption support. There were 59 requests for information packs on inter-country adoption, and there were 3 referrals for assessments for partner adoptions.

*Pat Cartwright
Parish Advocate*

Mission Contacts Committee

The Mission Contact committee met twice during 2009 to review our contacts with the charities that the PCC supports financially. It plans articles for publishing in the church magazine about these charities and also makes recommendations about the level of regular gifts and retiring collections. During the year a visit was received from Colin Smith of CMS Kenya. Deputation visits and retiring collections from the Leprosy Mission and Adoption Matters are planned for 2010. The Nobury Giant Christmas Card raised £282 for Bible Society and £399 for Tearfund.

David Scott

Bible Society

I have endeavoured over the last year to keep the congregation up to date with the informative articles I have put in the church magazine most months. We were privileged to have a speaker from Bible Society who came to the 10.15am service at the end of November 2009, and shared with us just what a

difference in people's lives is made through having the Bible translation in their own language.

Next year marks the 400th Anniversary of the Authorised Bible in English. We need to remember that the Bible in modern English is just as important today as the AV was in 1611. I hope we can commemorate this event in some way during 2011 here at Norbury.

We were able to forward £282 to the Bible Society during the year.

Sylvia Scott

The Children's Society

The Children's Society has always been supported by members of Norbury. Currently more than 60 people hold home collection boxes. Unfortunately last year due to the difficult economic climate and a fall in the number of box holders the amount collected was down substantially. However we still sent a worthwhile £980.29 for the benefit of some of the most troubled children in our society. A very well attended Christingle service resulted in a collection of £617.96. This service is very much appreciated by those who attend, for many of them it is their only contact with church.

If you would like more information about the work of the Children's Society or would like a collection box please contact me on 01625 875066 or visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk Thank you for your support.

Susan Jones

Christian Aid at Norbury 2009

In spite of the adverse financial climate we find ourselves in, we raised a brilliant £2230.05 from various activities around the time of Christian Aid Week in May:

House to House collection raised £1145.38

Sponsored runners £910.78

Cake Stall £102.05

Lent boxes and donations £71.84

Loads of different people were involved in the work of raising this sum; there were 16 house to house collectors collecting on 27 roads within the parish, and a

team of 15 people who helped to count all the money, ably headed by stalwart John Bennett, without whom I would have been totally lost trying to get the money safely counted and banked. There were 7 people who helped set up and run the cake stall, many more who baked cakes for us to sell, and 3 fit and healthy runners (plus 1 donkey) who ran 10K to raise sponsor money. And of course the many, many people, who took collecting boxes, gave donations and sponsored runners - all enabling us to raise this amount.

I want to say a huge thank you to all those who helped in practical ways and with financial support; this was a great joint effort.

Candy Stokes

Christians in Schools Trust

Christians in Schools continues to provide an active Christian presence for both pupils and staff in Stockport's secondary and primary schools. During the past year the work of taking assemblies and helping to organise Christian clubs in the schools has been divided between three workers, Sue Mayo, Andrew Phillips and Jonathan Wilson. The trust publishes a newsletter about three times a year giving up-to-date information on developments. If you would like a regular copy please speak to David Scott.

David Scott

Church Mission Society

Our mission partner, Colin Smith visited Norbury in June. During the morning service and later at lunch, he told us more about the work he and his wife Anita, are doing in Nairobi, Kenya. Their letters come three times a year and can be seen on the mission notice board or obtained from me.

A small group of supporters from Norbury and St. George's, Poynton, meet each month to listen to Audio-mission, a disc sent from CMS, to share any news we have and to pray. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Wendy Williamson

Church Pastoral-Aid Society

It was good to welcome the Revd John Coyne as our preacher at the 10.15am service on 18th October last year. He came as a representative of the Church Pastoral Aid Society and was able to tell us about the current resources provided by the Society for the use of churches throughout the U.K. The emphasis at the moment is on the provision of leadership training for all areas of church life.

Our church has had strong links with the Society for many years, and groups and individuals continue to benefit from the resources it provides. CPAS is a voluntary organisation which relies heavily on donations from parishes and individuals, so it is always grateful for the annual donation it receives from our PCC and donations from members of the congregation. Thanks go to those who give and those who support this work in prayer.

Betty Gaskell

The Leprosy Mission

During the year, TLM has introduced the “Catch Them Young” scheme that enables children from leprosy affected backgrounds to access education. The use of vocational centres has been increased, thus enabling former patients to obtain new skills and earn their own living.

Over the year Norbury supporters donated a total of £269. Used postage stamps have also been donated and these are then sold at stamp fairs, with the money raised donated to TLM.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to The Leprosy Mission.

Wendy Jackson

Mission to Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers is a missionary society of the Anglican Church, which cares for the spiritual and practical welfare of all seafarers regardless of nationality or faith.

Through a network of chaplains, staff and volunteers in 230 ports worldwide, the Mission reaches out to them by visiting them on their ships, offering a welcome

and whatever help may be needed.

In over 100 ports it runs centres where seafarers can relax away from their ships, get local information, find help with problems, share worship and telephone or email home.

Several church members took collecting boxes at Lent and I'd like to thank them and existing supporters who contributed to the work of the Mission.

Seafarers bring us so many of the things we take for granted but are very much forgotten as they spend months away from home and families, and face the dangers of storm and piracy. Short turn-round times in port and security restrictions mean that a visit to a Mission centre is their only opportunity to get ashore and socialise away from their ship.

I shall be arranging for Norbury to mark Sea Sunday on 11th July this year.

Lawrence Dark

TEAR Fund

Tear Fund received a donation of £399 from the Norbury Christmas card collection, and will received the retiring collection from this year's Harvest Service. A Tear Fund Speaker will be taking part (possibly Keith Harris) in our service on 31st October 2010. We also hope to get the Sunday Club involved in a Tear Fund activity/project around this time.

Carol Howlett

Social and Recreational

Bowling Club

The bowling club is going from strength to strength with a membership which is growing and spans a wide age range.

Our League team bowlers have acquitted themselves well again coming third in the league and winning some prize money for the club. The standard of the green

is improving year on year and is becoming well known to other clubs as one which is a pleasure to play on although it is viewed as tricky and a “good home green”

The club is really a social club with a bowling base and as such we organise several social events throughout the season which are thoroughly enjoyed by the membership. The club facilities are available for use by the members at any time during the season and all competitions are available to full members.

Like any organisation we are always ready to welcome new members and if you would like any further information please feel free to contact any member.

*Norman Allen
Secretary*

Norbury Walkers

'I will lift mine eyes to the hills,' Psalm 121, was part of Cliff Prince's funeral service, and the psalm he read during our Walkers' *Songs Of Praise* service in 2003. Cliff regularly attended the early Sunday services at Norbury and he led many of our hikes. We shall miss him, and Pauline Stefan who died later in the year.

We have continued to organise 3 or 4 walks each month. More walks have been farther afield, including Gradbach, Chatsworth and Ladybower. Martin Collins, led a more strenuous walk along Combs Edge and we felt that climbing Kinder Scout was quite an achievement.

We still appreciate our local footpaths and our bring and share picnic was as popular as ever. 47 people celebrated our 14th anniversary with a meal at the Legh Arms. The 4th car outing was a great success, when we drove our less mobile friends to the Goyt Valley, and tea and cakes at 'Ashford' raised £150 for the British Heart Foundation. Walkers supported the Harvest Flowers for the Housebound and ran the cake stall at the Christmas Fair.

In 2010, we look forward to Richard leading our first 'Sense Awareness' Walk and perhaps we will celebrate our 15th birthday with a third 'Songs of Praise'.

Kathleen Pierson

Social Committee

As you are now all probably aware activities organised by the above committee have been curtailed over the past few years resulting in us now concentrating on organising the annual parish outing and theatre trips. During 2009 we organised visits to see productions of *Calamity Jane* in March and *My Fair Lady* in November which were enjoyed by those who went to see them. The parish outing in August saw us take a full coach load to York. Once again this trip was voted a success by those who attended.

The committee were also able to make a donation of £300 to Francis House, The Rainbow Trust, from monies raised from these and previous events. May I take this opportunity to thank all those members of the congregation who support these initiatives.

Thanks are also due to the hard-working members of the social committee who are: Ken Dennis, Jim Swallow, Norman Broadbent, Jock Egginton, Pat Gorie, Sadie Booth, Phyll Dennis, Florence Barlow and June Dearden.

Bryan Hegerty, Chairman

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair this year built on the successful format of last year with an emphasis on enjoyment and companionship rather than commercialism. We had a very successful event with much chat, friendship and laughter and also raised much needed money for our church. In fact the Fair brought in just over £1,000, so “well done” to everyone who manned stalls, served tea, decorated rooms or helped in any other way, to make the day such a success. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us.

We had 14 stalls in all – plus the ever popular refreshments, and yet again we managed to persuade Father Christmas to make time for us in his busy schedule. Much encouraged by all of this, we have already booked the fair for 2010! The date to put in your diary is Saturday 27th November.

Pauline Evans and Per Olsson

