



The Parish Church of All Saints, Staplehurst

Annual Reports

2009/10

**MISSION STATEMENT
FOR ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STAPLEHURST**

1. All Saints' Staplehurst is an inclusive Church – everyone is welcomed.
2. We encourage participation in all aspects of Church life whilst respecting the choices of those wishing not to participate.
3. We seek to take our faith outside the church building.
4. We aim to bring our whole selves to God through worship, praise and prayer. We bring our skills and personalities to offer to God's purpose.
5. We seek to listen to God and act in response e.g. in issues of peace and justice.
6. We want to grow in our faith and to help all others (including the young) to do so.
7. We respect the past, respond to present challenges and prepare for the future.
8. We work together with other Churches in the Weald Deanery.
9. We acknowledge the attributes of all Christians and value the diversity of other styles of worshipping God.
10. We will work with the other Churches in Staplehurst towards the furtherance of Christianity in the local and world community.

THE RECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

Those of you who have been reading our report for many years will see that we have now been asked to present it in rather a different format, starting with our mission statement and continuing with details of those carrying particular responsibilities in the church, the work of sub-committees and a brief resume of the last year. The individual reports and our accounts, which follow, help us see in rather more detail how our aims and objectives are carried out and financed.

I can't help feeling this is an important and helpful change. It is so easy for each of us, or our own sub group, to get engrossed in the tasks we are doing and fail to see the bigger picture. We so easily lose sight of what All Saints is really here for, as we get snowed under with the minutiae of particular projects or problems. Another way of getting a real overview of our church's life is to go on our website and our thanks go to Andrew Brady and his family for keeping that so fresh, exciting and up to date.

Perhaps some of you have already heard that wonderful story of Sir Christopher Wren visiting the building site which was to become St Paul's Cathedral. He loved to wander around talking to those working there. One day he asked a stonemason what he was doing.

"Chipping away at this lump of rock to make the keystone for that arch" came the reply.

Next Christopher Wren met a carpenter with a chisel and asked him the same question.

"I'm carving part of the west door", he answered.

And then there was the blacksmith who told him

"I'm forging the metal work for the screen".

Lastly he approached a small lad who was helping care for the horses who dragged the carts laden with building materials up from the bottom of Ludgate Hill all day. The young boy was standing between a pile of hay and a bucket of water, when Christopher Wren asked *him* the question,

"So what are you doing?"

And the lad answered brightly,

"Helping Sir Christopher Wren build St Paul's Cathedral"!

Our new Bishop, Trevor spoke recently to us, on his deanery visit here, about each human person being called to take part in God's kingdom building and about all of us showing gratitude to each other and to God for all that we receive.

So this is our annual chance to do both those things. Firstly we join in thanking everybody who gives so freely of all that they are and have. And secondly it's also a chance for each of us reading this report, to ask ourselves, "*Where is God calling me to join others in extending his kingdom of love a bit further in this place?*"

With much love

Gill

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009/10

Background

All Saints Staplehurst has the responsibility for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Staplehurst, the whole mission of the Church. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient Parish Church and the Parish Rooms. Since 28th August 2002 the Rev Canon Gill Calver has been the Rector of All Saints.

Membership

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

Incumbent	The Revd Canon Gill Calver
Wardens	Pat Sherlock and Norman Wallis
Representative on Diocesan Synod	Sylvia Lade
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Val Wallis, Sylvia Lade, Karen Kember, John Dodman
Elected Members	Vice Chair- Nicholas Wells Treasurer- Ann Fulcher Secretary- Sylvia Lade Steve Bennett, Anne Brenchley, Sheila Brooker, Sonja Drew, Jo Green, Caroline Highwood, Adam Houghton, Mary Shaw, Tug Tugwell, Colin Whatmore, Helen Wilkins
Ex-officio	Lesley Whitwood - Reader The Revd John Walker- Self supporting associate priest The Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy- Curate
Co-Opted Member	Marion Whatmore, Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

PCC members are elected for a period of three years at the APCM, which may be extended by another three years, if they are re-elected. They cannot stand again for election for at least a year. Nomination forms are provided at the back of church before the APCM, with an explanation of voting procedures in our weekly pew notice sheet. The Rector advises newcomers as to their role and responsibilities after election.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between the full meetings of the PCC. Particular tasks are given to sub committees by the PCC and in turn these committees inform the PCC of work there are doing on behalf of the church and where appropriate, bring to our full council items for discussion.

The committees are as follows:

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to directions given by the PCC.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Attends to matters relating to buildings and fabric, the churchyard and Parish Rooms. Liaises with the Finance Committee on expenditure in these areas.

Charities Committee

Deals with the PCC's charitable giving, both at home and overseas. Charities for the church to support each year are selected by this committee from congregational suggestions.

Deanery Group

Meets to discuss and implement issues and directives for the Deanery Synod

'Growing Together' Committee

Has responsibility for the ongoing educational programme for adults and young people in the Church.

Finance Committee

Oversees the general financial position by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and coordinating the review of planned giving (at its monthly meetings). It also represents the parish's decisions on what percentage of deanery diocesan share the parish pays each year, by sending representatives to the Annual Deanery Bidding Day, together with the Rector

Magazine Committee

Has the responsibility for the production of the monthly Parish Magazine, together with other publicity matters and provides accounts for magazine production, distribution and advertising.

Social Events committee

Coordinates social events, some of which are fundraisers and some of which are purely social get togethers.

Social responsibility

All matters relating to the social and community concerns of the Church.

Churches Together in Staplehurst

Meet to arrange services and other events held jointly with Staplehurst's other churches.

Worship Committee

Monitors the pattern of worship of the Church and suggests changes where appropriate.

Church Attendance

There are 128 people on the Church Electoral Roll and the Usual Sunday Attendance is 140 adults and 8 children.

Review of the Year

All Saints stands on the hill at the heart of the village of Staplehurst and continues its ministry to members of church and village.

Although having a central church tradition, we also try to provide helpful acts of worship for those used to other styles. Four times a year we celebrate a High Mass and one evening each month our praise band has led us in a very free form of worship- preceded by coffee and refreshments. Our youth ministry co-ordinator has involved many people in our first Sunday all age worship services, giving us a very varied menu. Our evening service schedule involves quiet evenings, Café church, Taizé services and traditional evening prayer.

We have an Authorised Lay minister, trained as a worship leader, and a new Funeral Officiant trained this year. Our Reader in training and ordinand will both finish their training in 2010. We have two ALMs in training. Collaborative ministry is an important hall mark of our church and, as more people sense a call to a variety of ministries, we are becoming less dependent on the pyramid style of ministry, where a paid incumbent at the top, makes all the decisions.

Members of our ministry team and congregation are involved in many village clubs and associations, as well as in our school, at our residential homes, medical centre and on our Parish Council.

Our youth groups span the ages 0-18 years and are well planned by our Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, a part-time paid post, but one which easily fills rather more than an average working week. There has been a real growth in numbers regularly attending our toddler group, known as 'mini saints', thanks to Marion Whatmore and her team. Our youth minister is much involved in our

school, taking assemblies and helping in class rooms (or, as she puts it, playing!) and, as a result, she is well known by many village youngsters and their families.

Last year we baptised 20 babies and young people. There were 40 funerals and 13 weddings.

The Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy ran a fascinating film course during Advent and we ran two Lent courses at the Curate's home and The New Rectory, which were well attended. Our St George's Chapel was used for an inspiring course on Mission run by one of our diocesan missionaries during the summer.

Our general funds are stretched. We continue to grapple with concerns over a large predicted deficit at the end of the coming year.

Consistent generous giving by those of us who see ourselves as members of the church, has to be the only way we can effectively continue to serve our village in the years ahead.

Easter Vestry Meeting: 19th April 2010– Agenda

1. Election of Churchwardens
2. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting of 20th April 2009
3. Date of Next Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 19th April 2010 – Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 20th April 2009
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll and Election of Electoral Roll Officer
5. Election of Members to the PCC
6. *Annual Reports:*
 - 6.1 PCC Secretary
 - 6.2 Churchwardens' Reports
 - 6.3 Curate's Report
 - 6.4 Readers' Report
 - 6.5 Servers' Report
 - 6.6 Worship Report
 - 6.7 Bellringers
 - 6.8 Music
 - 6.9 Holy Dusters & Brass Cleaners
 - 6.10 Flowers
 - 6.11 Magazine
 - 6.12 Mothers' Union
 - 6.13 Pastoral Ministry
 - 6.14 Health, Healing & Support Group
 - 6.15 Social Responsibility
 - 6.16 Charities
 - 6.17 Supersaints
 - 6.18 'The Cru'
 - 6.19 Youth Ministry Coordinator
 - 6.20 Churches Together
 - 6.21 Weald Deanery
 - 6.22 Diocesan Synod
 - 6.23 Social Committee
 - 6.24 Friends of All Saints
7. Treasurers' Report and Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Election of Sidespeople
9. Any Other Business

PCC Members: Please note that the first PCC meeting after the APCM will be on Sunday 9th May a short meeting in church to arrange committees and elect officers. We shall give PCC members time to express views about committee membership before then.

Please could PCC members gather after the APCM for a couple of minutes to elect treasurer and secretary for the coming year.

CONTENTS

Page Number

• Secretary's Report on the Business of the PCC	1
• Churchwardens' Reports	2-3
• Curate's Report	4
• Readers' Report	4-5
• Servers' Report	5
• Worship	6-7
• Bellringers	7
• Music	8
• Holy Dusters and Brass Cleaners	9
• Flowers	9
• Magazine	9
• Mothers' Union	10
• Pastoral Ministry	10
• Health, Healing and Support Group	10
• Social Responsibility	11
• Charities	11
• Supersaints	12
• The Cru	12
• Youth Ministry Report	13
• Churches Together	14
• Weald Deanery	14
• Diocesan Synod	15
• Social Committee	16
• Friends of All Saints	16
• Minutes of the 2009 Easter Vestry Meeting	17
• Minutes of 2009 Annual Parochial Church Meeting	18-19

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE APCM APRIL 2010

Members of the PCC continue to work well together to help our hard-working Ministry Team in the life and work of our church here in Staplehurst.

During the year, seven PCC meetings were held.

We have had the added comfort during the past year of having our meetings in the St. George's Chapel. The chairs are some of the most comfortable I have ever sat on!

Discussions at meetings have included work still to be done on church lighting and more recently, the organ and the church heating boilers.

Our PCC registered with the Charities Commission this year. The PCC charity number will now appear on all paperwork and also, after some discussion, the PCC passed a resolution that "details of our church and its services should be listed on the Changing Attitude website as a congregation which is open and welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people".

In June, the PCC had an informal supper with Bishop Stephen Venner, who had spent the day in Staplehurst meeting with Canon Gill and the Churchwardens and several members of the church congregation. This was to be his last visit to us as Bishop, and we were determined to make it one to remember!

In July, Lusa, our Curate was ordained Priest by Bishop Richard Llewellyn, and in the afternoon of the same day, Adie McCall (who served her six-month placement with us) was ordained in Hawkhurst.

Lusa's ordination was a wonderful occasion and it was good to share the celebrations with his family and Mirjam, who in 2010 will become his wife.

During the year the PCC agreed that Sonja Drew should be accredited as ALM (Authorised Local Minister) for leading worship in September and she also took up position of Musical Director, taking over from Lesley Whitwood, in January 2010.

The PCC discussed how All Saints should be involved, as all churches throughout the Diocese marked 'Back to Church Sunday'. This was a good opportunity for previous members of the congregation to see how things have changed over the years.

Judy Vinson, sat in on our PCC meetings – she was from Rolvenden, and completed a six-month training course with All Saints, as part of her training to become a Reader.

The PCC supported unanimously the training of Audrey Bullock as a Funeral Officiant and Karen Kember and Audrey Bullock as ALM trainees as Pastoral Assistants.

My thanks to Karen for deciphering my handwritten minutes during the year and for the help she is always ready to give to us all.

Finally thanks to Gill for all her hard work and unstinting care she gives to all of us, as well as being a loving mother and grandmother and good friend to so many. *Sylvia Lade*

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT FOR APCM 2010

As I begin to write this annual report we are still in winter's grip, so it is a good time to forget the ice and snow and look back over the past year at All Saints.

Once again it has been a busy time, particularly for our hard-working clergy, Gill, Lusa and John. We are extremely grateful to them for their ministry throughout the year, and because of our diversity of services, our devoted Lay Ministry Team is able to share some of the work with the clergy. We were pleased to welcome Judy Vinson from Rolvenden parish, who spent 16 weeks with us as part of her training as a Reader.

In June we were privileged to have Bishop Stephen Venner spend a day with us at All Saints, when he presided at our mid-week Communion and said prayers of re-dedication for the refurbished St. George's Chapel. Some 40 people attended, including members of the Royal British Legion. Many people have found the Chapel peaceful and comforting, where they can rest and spend a few quiet moments away from the business of the day.

In July we were delighted to hold the service at All Saints for Lusa's priesting, a truly happy occasion. Bishop Richard Llewellyn, our Celebrant, and most of our large congregation stayed for a buffet lunch.

Once again we had a full church for our Remembrance Service in November, and this year we were able to have a trumpeter from Dulwich Preparatory School. Our Service of Bereavement and Thanksgiving in the evening was also well supported, where those who wished were invited to light a candle and then names of those departed were read out.

Towards the end of November over 60 travelled to Eastbourne for our Parish Weekend. This was all expertly arranged by Alaine and Brian Summers and during the three days we found plenty of opportunity to get to know other members of our congregation. John and Joss Walker lead the sessions 'Finding God in the Senses' and the camera buffs among us were given help and guidance from our Staplehurst photographer, Frank Page. The Saturday evening entertainment was very amusing and we were all amazed at the variety of artistic talent from members of our church.

It was encouraging to see good congregations throughout Advent and for all the Christmas services, with standing room only for the Christingle, which is attended by members from all churches in the village, and this year 180 Christingles were made by members of The Mothers' Union.

As I come to the end of my first year as Churchwarden, I have found it rather busy, certainly stimulating and very enjoyable. I would like to thank all my church family for all their help and kindness and especially a huge thank you to Norman for all his support and guidance throughout the year.

Pat Sherlock

Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture of the Church for APCM 2010

Our Inspecting Architect was commissioned towards the end of 2009 to carry out a Quinquennial Survey on the Church; he has commenced this and his report is awaited which may highlight work which needs to be carried out. However work is continually being done to keep the building in as good a condition as finances will allow and to make it as user friendly and safe as possible. As items are found that need attention, they are being dealt with from large repairs on the structure down to small repairs on fixtures and fittings. What follows is a summary of what has been done during the past year and which items now require attention.

The work to refurbish the Chapel was eventually finished in time for Easter 2009 including new curtaining which means that the Chapel can now be closed off as a separate space if necessary and also 54 upholstered chairs have been purchased making it a more comfortable space. To enable the stage and spare chairs to be stored away from the Chapel some pews were removed from the North –West corner of the Nave, this revealed that flooring was in need of attention and this is being done. As part of the re-organisation of the Rector's Vestry new light fittings have now been fixed to replace the failed halogen floodlights.

Further works at the Parish Room have been carried out and paid for with outside funds obtained by the Nursery School. These works include revamping the outside areas at the side and front of the building with new pavings and rebuilt steps up to the public footpath for which a removable ramp will be provided and also items of play equipment.

The annual servicing of the boiler revealed that one of the boilers had developed a hole in the external casing, so was unsafe and had to be taken out of service; the church is being heated by the two remaining boilers.

The Organ Tuner, following tuning in December 2009, reiterated his earlier recommendation that the organ should be cleaned and overhauled and this is being considered by our Musical Director and the Organists.

In the Churchyard the kissing gate at the East end fell into disrepair and has been removed, it will be replaced by one saved from when the gates into the new extension were replaced. A tree near the East boundary is still to be taken down to give an adjacent tree more space. Removal of ivy from the walls of the Church and the churchyard is an ongoing process.

The replacement of the external louvres to the Bell Chamber some of which have fallen to the ground and been refixed is still being considered.

As mentioned in last year's Report the halogen lighting in the Nave, Chancel, Chapel and South Aisle had for some time proved to be difficult to maintain and in March 2008 the PCC had accepted a proposal for a new lighting scheme based on chandeliers and wall lights. This scheme includes for a complete rewiring of the lighting circuits. However the process of obtaining final approval is still proving difficult. After much discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, over the last two years, their approval was gained and their Certificate recommending the scheme was issued; as a result of this a Faculty Petition form and Public Notice were received from the Diocesan Registrar. The Public Notice was displayed and following submission of the Petition we have been notified that there have been a number of letters of objection to the scheme. The proceedings as set out in the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991; Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2000 are being followed. On completion of those proceedings the Commissary General will make a decision as to whether the scheme can go ahead. Until this stage is reached no applications can be made to major grant givers as they all require to know if a Faculty has been granted.

Norman Wallis

CURATE'S REPORT TO THE APCM – 2009/2010

This second year of the curacy has been, in many aspects, very different from the first year. Since priesting in July 09, it seems that the scope of my ministry in Staplehurst has suddenly widened. I have enjoyed the opportunity of ministering to the community in a greater variety of ways, and am looking forward to see what the next twelve months have in store.

The past year was an interesting mix between my first weddings, celebration of the eucharist, Ngoma Vuma Africa, and a number of other things. In the course of the year, I ran two French classes that I hope to resume after Easter. They are a wonderful opportunity for socializing and mixing. In the autumn, I became more involved with our praise service until it came to its end in December. I will continue to act as facilitator for “ignite”, the new concept that we have launched. I feel that there remain, in our shared life, areas in which growth and development are necessary. I would like, in the next year, to focus more on questions of discipleship. In that respect, I hope to resume an old All Saints tradition of theological reflection through movies and secular culture. I am also hoping to be able to run a class specifically aimed at the exposition of Christian faith.

READERS' REPORT FOR APCM 2010

This year has been one of gradually withdrawing from duties for Lesley and of becoming ready for duties for Kevin. Peter has continued to serve manfully in the ministry to the nursing homes and to support Pam in the Mothers' Union.

Lesley

I passed on my duties as Director of Music to Sonja after Christmas and we worked together during November and December to give Sonja a firm grounding in the responsibilities of the post. It is always strange to resign from a duty which has been both a joy and a frustration at times. The choir are a wonderful group and have been very supportive to the things we have done together over quite a few years now. One thing which was said to me when I first started doing the job was that no-one could ever please everyone all the time and there have certainly been grumbles at times but also many compliments about the standard of music that we produce in All Saints.

While still in the area, I have continued to preach and to take non-Eucharistic services although it is lovely to find that there is a much larger team to do all this than in the past. With retirement I have also managed to take a fuller part in funeral ministry.

Who knows what lies ahead for me in ministry once in Scotland but with Kevin nearing qualification and the input of other forms of ministry in the parish, I am sure that it is in safe hands. If only the place of Reader ministry in the Church of England could be so sure of its place!

Kevin

I have been asked to write a few words on my continuing journey towards becoming a licensed Reader in the diocese-actually, writing a few words is quite a hard task for me, my natural game is to write lots of them! The training for readership is really designed to enable one to answer four questions; Do you have a call to vocation? Is that call recognised by others? Is your sense of call realistic, and is your sense of call informed? Accreditation and the teaching element of the readership course is undertaken by Canterbury Christ Church University. There have been tensions at times between the academic requirements of the university in this modern age, the totally different style of academic education that was prevalent in my youth, and the sense of vocation that I have been wishing to fulfil. However, these tensions have been resolved without major conflict, and I feel that, whilst not exactly drinking from the fount of eternal youth, undergoing the rigours of a degree level course in my declining years of retirement has been a challenge that has been both rewarding and necessary. A theological education cannot be had cheaply, and I'm not talking about money.

Readers Report (Cont.)

The teaching programme consists of Wednesday evening sessions and every third Saturday, and we have covered topics from Biblical theology to pastoral care. Although the readership ministry focuses on preaching, teaching and pastoral work, we study with those training for ordination as local ministers. The organisation of the Church of England faces a very challenging future, and it is right that those called to serve should be flexible and open to change.

As well as the teaching programme at Canterbury, we have periodic retreats. The spiritual retreats have taken place at St. Andrew's Abbey near Brugge (Bruges). A fitting degree of austerity characterises the abbey, which those of us who endured an English boarding school education find completely natural, but some of the ladies are inclined to disagree, and are somewhat disdainful of the plumbing. The enduring legacy of my boarding school years is, firstly, I will eat anything, and, secondly, I will eat everything, which is a distinct advantage in Bruges, but one, regretfully, that not everyone seems to possess. Also, some find mealtimes taken in silence a bit of a strain, which is not helped by the improving works read to us by one of the brothers being in Flemish. If one is able to see the funny side, one will love every minute.

My unreserved gratitude is towards the members of my local group, Brioni, Sheila, Mary, Shirley, Pat, Caroline, and my facilitator, the Revd David Jones from Coxheath, who together, have been the major factor in my continuing to approach the course with joy and fulfilment. Without their prayers, support and presence the journey would have been infinitely more difficult, if not impossible, to which I will add my heartfelt thanks to Gill and Lusa. The other person I wish to publicly thank is my wife, Ann, without whose tolerance and understanding the journey would not have been possible at all.

SERVERS' REPORT TO THE APCM – 2009/2010

Our small, friendly team of altar servers continue to work together to support our clergy in the running of the communion services.

We prepare the altar prior to the service, ensuring the relevant books, bread, wine and water are available, help during the service and then clear away afterwards.

Normally there is a team of four for the 10.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. services – each server has a specific role, e.g. crucifer who carries the cross – but we all work as a team. For the 8.00 a.m. service only one server is required.

We would always welcome anyone who would like to join us – please contact Sheila Brooker on 891207 or talk to Gill or Lusa.

Finally, I would like to thank all servers, both young and not so young, for all their help.

Sheila Brooker

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE APCM – 2009.2010

As a result of our Weald Deanery Mission course, led this year by our diocesan missionary, the Revd. Richard King, the Worship Committee have grappled with some hard issues.

We discussed how we need to “think hospitality” as newcomers arrive in church, particularly focusing on how it must feel to come into a church for the first time. We felt that our welcome must come before “counting people in” and emphasis was made about how we could hand newcomers one of our simple welcome sheets and a free copy of the magazine if it was a first visit. Some stressed the importance of church business with those on sidesperson duty being left for another occasion, leaving people free to engage in conversation with those just arriving. Others spoke of the important vocation of Sidespeople and how those taking up this ministry needed to be outgoing and ready to introduce newcomers to others, inviting them to coffee and so on. We looked at the sheet with 26 hints for improving worship, given out by our missionary, which ranged from “smiling at those arriving” to “improving the quality of sermons”! It was suggested that every member of our congregation might make the first person they spoke to after the service someone they did not know.

“Back to Church Sunday” in September resulted in four new visitors. Their responses were varied but we considered this an occasion we should recognise again.

At one meeting in the autumn, we reflected on some of the Revd John Walker’s informal feedback on his Ph D research on church growth. The slogan “we will go to you” rather than “you come to us” caught our imagination and Marion Whatmore’s leading of “mini saints” on a Thursday afternoon, with a growing number of parents with babies or toddlers and a regular Christian input at story time, was seen to be an excellent example of “we will go to you”. I know Marion would want to thank her whole team who share in the running of this group. Do pop into the parish room one Thursday afternoon if you think we don’t have many young children in contact with our church.

We looked at “Being Church” in a variety of ways, involving music, art and film in services. It is good to be able to anticipate some innovative styles of worship developing as we extend our team of ministers leading us. Sonja Drew was accredited this year as an Authorised Lay Minister and took over from Lesley Whitwood in January 2010 as Director of Music. Our thanks go to Lesley for all the hard work and energy she has put into our church music and her worship leading as a Reader, over many years, as well as her enthusiastic leadership of the choir. We wish her well as she prepares to leave us for retirement in Scotland. Audrey Bullock is now an Authorised Funeral Officiant and Kevin Fulcher and Steve Bennett come to the end of their training as Reader and Ordained Minister, respectively, in summer 2010.

A meeting for our intercessors was arranged to share best practice and reflect again on what is the purpose of that part of our worship. We have had our first experiences of “Café church” this year, which many of us have enjoyed.

Our Praise Band, now known as “Feed the Soul” decided, at the end of the year, that it was time to focus their ministry in other places, although some members of the group still give generously of their time and talents to All Saints. So our curate Lusa has now launched a new service on the second Sunday evening of each month, called “ignite”. It is held in St. George’s chapel, uses contemporary music, a group of musicians and some stimulating reflections. We invite you to come and experience it yourself. We are unusual, as a village church, still to have evening services every week and they span the spectrum from Prayer Book Evensong to Taizé services with lots of stops in between!

I want, in this report, to express the thanks of all our congregation, to so many of you, who despite having really busy private and working lives, find time to share in the leading of our worship in so many inspiring ways, without any remuneration. The diocese only pays for two of our ministry team. (And please note our joint costs come to a good deal more than we contribute to the diocese, those of you who think our parish share is too much).

And thanks to all who come regularly to give praise together in our services, whether it's the faithful five who meet on a Tuesday morning Eucharist at 8am or the hundreds at our Christingle each year, on Christmas Eve. Our worship here continues to enrich my life, as I know it does many of your's.

Gill Calver

STAPLEHURST BELLRINGERS' REPORT TO APCM APRIL 2010

The past year has been another successful one for the Staplehurst ringers, with considerable progress being made both by the band as a whole and by individual ringers.

We currently have more than 20 ringers in our band, making it one of the largest in Kent. Towards the end of 2009 we lost one of our ringers as a result of a job move, but on the credit side we have had three young people and one adult (mother of one of the youngsters) learning to ring during the year. All are making good progress.

Attendance per session during the past year has averaged 12.1 ringers, which is 0.4 more than the previous year. The average figure for Sunday mornings has dropped to 10.9, but Sunday evenings' average has increased to 9.4 and the practice night average has increased from 13.9 to 15.3. These figures do not include ringing for the 11 weddings, although this year has not been quite such a struggle to find sufficient ringers due to the willingness of people to give up their Saturday afternoons to ring for weddings.

One peal and 29 quarter peals were rung between 1st November 2008 and 4th October 2009, the latter mainly by local ringers with many "firsts" having been recorded for conductors, in methods and two on the simulator. Quarter peals, which consist of about 45 minutes' continuous ringing, are often rung in celebration of local or national events and here in Staplehurst we had plenty to celebrate. Freda Tomlin's 90th birthday, Lusa Nsenga Ngoy's ordination, Daniel Brady's 21st birthday, Matilda Hammond's (daughter of Izzy, nee Jeffery) christening and Shirley and Tony Norfolk's ruby wedding anniversary were all celebrated in this way during 2009/10.

On our annual outing we visited six towers in East Kent, where a variety of bells and good ringing were enjoyed.

Our band won the Maidstone District Striking Competition in June and thus represented the District at the County 6-bell competition held at Lynsted. Our band came a very creditable fourth place only 4 points behind the winners, Ashford, and 10 points ahead of the fifth placed band.

Our band as a whole has progressed well during 2009. Our aims for 2010 must be to build on that progress.

Roy Barclay, Tower Secretary, 11th February 2010

MUSIC REPORT 2009/2010

With the increasing diversity of services the music in the church has adapted to different demands. Yet again we are indebted to our accompanists on the piano and organ (Ted, Steve, Bob, Delphine, Adrian) and we have been thrilled to welcome Adam Brady into that number.

The Praise service band, with Gary at the head, has led those services for most of the past year. With the change to the format of that service a music group of a slightly different character has developed which has provided the accompaniment for family services and recently the Women's World Day of Prayer. We are very fortunate in having musicians who can turn their hand to various kinds of hymns and songs.

In a more traditional way, the choir has continued to give expert and valuable service and they too have extended their range to include both the well loved music of the past and the more modern or adventurous settings of sacred words. They can regularly provide a four part choir

which can tackle works as remarkably, they can sing art. They have turned numbers, for evening exercised the wider Christmas and the Christmas festival. The and Carols and the

with the Friends. It has also been lovely to welcome new members into the choir and to have the participation of other members of the church for special services. Like the rest of the church family we are very short of youngsters; I remember when we had 15 young members of the choir and ran separate practices for them!



English chant for the psalms which is a very precise out regularly for morning services and, in smaller ones; they have sung at weddings and funerals and ministry in nursing homes for Easter, Harvest and annual slot at the Highgrove garden centre high points this year have been the Nine Lessons

choir's participation in the Last Night of the Proms

It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated group who will do their best to fulfil all the demands made on them and will practise on a Friday evening with good humour in freezing temperatures and dim light. Very few churches now can boast such a valuable resource – cherish them!

Lesley Whitwood

It was a great privilege to take on the role of Music Director at All Saints at the beginning of this year and I'm certainly looking forward to the challenge. In February the choir hosted a musical evening for couples getting married in the church during the year. It was an opportunity for the couples to come along and listen to a wide selection of music we are able to offer for their wedding service, as well as an opportunity for the choir to get to know the couples and their families over a drink and some nibbles. Our newest organist Adam Brady, played for the evening pieces ranging from Handel to Myers to Mendelssohn. The choir sang a selection of well known hymns, moving on to singing pieces by Rutter, Goodhall and Bach, the latter two being accompanied by one of our other organists Steve Bennett. It was an enjoyable evening and the choir have been asked to repeat this event later in the year.

The music report this year would not be complete, if I did not finish by saying a big thank you to Lesley for all the hard work she has put in over the years to make All Saints Church Choir what it is today. The choir has valued Lesley's leadership, knowledge, expertise, patience and also the time she has devoted to the wide range of services we serve. We will miss her when she moves to Scotland.

Sonja Drew

“HOLY DUSTERS” AND BRASS CLEANERS – REPORT TO APCM APRIL 2010

We are all very proud of our well-looked after church and owe the “Holy dusters” a huge vote of thanks for the love and care they give week by week to keep up the “cared for” feeling that always seems to be in our church.

Unfortunately one of our most faithful cleaners, Mrs. Doris Evans, died last year. Doris lovingly cleaned and polished the pulpit every week – it still shines as she wished it to and we hope it will continue to do so.

However, we do need more cleaners – I find myself cleaning several areas weekly, and I know there are others doing more than their fair share, so please help if you can, it need not be for longer than half an hour, either weekly or fortnightly.

Mrs. Jean Rogers now organises the brass cleaning rota and she joins me in thanking Marion Christie for supplying us with cleaning dusters and materials for the work.

If you are able to help out and become a “Holy Duster”, then please contact either myself (891091), Margaret Friswell (893036), or one of the Churchwardens.

Sylvia Lade

FLOWER REPORT TO APCM 2009/2010

Many thanks, as usual, to all our flower arrangers. Those doing the winter months have been particularly noble and I hope, well wrapped up. A special thanks to the ladies who organise various months. They spend a lot of time making sure our church looks beautiful. We are very fortunate to have so much talent amongst the congregation and their friends.

The accounts are elsewhere in these reports. We do try not to have to ask our finance committee for any funding. We are grateful for the donations you make at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The only other income we get is a contribution we ask for from each wedding couple.

For festivals, and at some other times, we are fortunate to receive a generous discount from Golden Hill Nursery at Marden. Thank you to them, it is a big help.

Audrey Bullock (Flower-Co-ordinator)

MAGAZINE REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/10

Circulation figures are down for the period 2009, but all costs have been covered, and a healthy profit was made.

There will be no increase in the price of the magazine for 2010.

No changes will be made to outside cover, except cost has been moved from bottom of page to top for easier viewing.

Advertising costs in the magazine have been increased for 2010, on the advice of Frank Page. No objections have been made so far, and there are more adverts this year than of previous years.

Tug Tugwell

THE MOTHERS' UNION – REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/10

The Mothers' Union in Staplehurst continues to be a small group of dedicated members keen to keep alive the aims and objectives of our global organisation.

Our meetings are held at the home of Doonie Marshall, who is one of our members. We are also keen to be involved in helping with the various activities within our church life.

Recently 'A History of the Mothers' Union' has been published – Women, Anglicanism and globalisation 1876-2008 by Cordelia Moyse, fellow of the George Bell Institute (UK) and a lecturer in church history at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Millersville University, Pennsylvania. There is a forward by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Jane Williams, and they describe the Mothers' Union as "the most influential and widespread lay movement in the churches of the (Anglican) communion, and probably the most active groups in any Christian denomination".

You have only to look at the Mothers' Union publications in our church to see how active we are around the world.

Although we in Staplehurst are a tiny part of this global fellowship, we feel immensely privileged to be counted amongst its members.

Sue Hollins

PASTORAL MINISTRY – REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/10

Once again the team have had a very rewarding year. We continue to visit the sick, the bereaved and to administer Holy Communion to the housebound, and to provide a listening ear to those with family problems.

We have monthly Communion visits to the local nursing homes and members of the team have been appointed to administer when Gill is unable to. We can, from time to time, provide transport to hospital and also take the elderly in the parish to spend time with their friends when they live away from a bus route.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for the help and comfort they bring to all.

We are always pleased to have extra help. If you feel you would like to join us, please speak to Gill or to me.

Pat Sherlock

THE HEALTH, HEALING AND SUPPORT PRAYER GROUP REPORT TO APCM – 2009/10

The group numbers are nine in number. We support, with our prayers, those who ask and those we know who are ill or having other difficulties with their lives. The group have continued to meet over the past year, as often as possible, usually once a month. The group is presently formed of Ron and Barbara Dear, Jean & Des Liddicoat, Pam and Peter Mortley, Jean Clarke, Brioni Armytage and Sue Hollins. The group could do with an influx of new committed younger members and anyone who has an interest, whether you can attend meetings or not, and would like to join the group, please contact me. You will be most welcome.

The work of the group continues as reported in previous years and Laying on of Hands with prayer occurs during the Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

Please ask me, or any member of the group, for help and Prayer when you, or someone you know, is in need. You will be surprised and thankful for the amount of help and comfort the Lord provides to those who ask.

Ron Dear (891407) March 2010

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2009/10

This year we concentrated on supporting Bishop Stephen's initiative in formulating a response to the issues of climate change and the environment. In September Dr Sarah Anderson an expert on climate change together with a representative of the Energy Saving Trust gave a very successful talk open to the village in the Church. We are intending to carry on disseminating information on climate change and identifying environmental projects which we can encourage.

We thoroughly investigated the Reset project to help ex-offenders from Maidstone prison to re-integrate successfully into society and it may be possible for individual members of the Church to support this project.

Jo Green presented an address on Christian Solidarity Worldwide's Change for Burma programme.

A list of Prisoners of Conscience was made available for people to write to individuals on that list.

We reported on the trafficking of people in the construction industry and in domestic work.

The PCC was invited to pray that the Church in Uganda would recognise that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill (which will prescribe life imprisonment and in some cases the death penalty) is not morally or scripturally correct.

Christmas Stars of remembrance were provided by Audrey Bullock.

Mary Shaw

CHARITY COMMITTEE –REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/2010

Collections in 2009 for our three-monthly charities, plus The Royal British Legion, Cruse, The Children's Society and our gift aid refund amounted to £3,422.54. Thank you for your generosity.

Most people have their own special charities which they wish to support. It is great that so many of you count the charities supported by the church amongst your donations.

The film pots are being a valuable addition to each three-monthly charity. They contribute an average extra £100 each time.

On the charity notice board in the coffee area are two lists – one of the breakdown of last year's donations and one for the charities for this year and the dates for the Charity Sundays.

If you gift aid your donations it does make a contribution to the extra charity for the year. Either use the monthly orange envelope from the back of your weekly envelope pack, or from your orange envelope pack if you give to the church by direct debit. Should you pay tax but do not have the orange envelopes, please use a blue one, available in church, and complete the details and also write the name of the charity. Thank you.

Audrey Bullock (Chairman)

SUPERSAINTS –REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/2010

Held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, starting from the Church for the first Hymn then heading off to the Parish Rooms as a group. For children aged up to 8 years old.

Firstly our thanks to Sonja Drew who led some good and interesting lessons prior to her departure at Christmas 2009 to become Musical Director for All Saints and lead the Church Choir. In June 2009 she led a Family Service and all our young Supersaints members participated and got fully engaged in the lesson about the creations God had made. Also for the Harvest Festival last year, the children played an active role in helping the farmers present their produce to the Altar. Meanwhile, through the year, she focused the children's classes on virtues and values through Bible Readings and stories and they enjoyed some varied and valuable lessons.

Since Linda and I have taken over the running of the group, we have enjoyed getting to know the children and are enjoying taking the classes. We are currently following the KidZone Blue publications and for the next 8 weeks will be structuring our lessons around the Old Testament, learning about Creation and the beginning of our world. The publication provides a basis for interesting and enjoyable teachings and good suggestions for Readings, songs and games to keep the children interested in the lesson. We currently have a register of 8 children but rarely have all that number together but are hoping to spread the word and increase our numbers. With Jill and John Dodman now taking "Sunday Explorers" at the same time but in a different room and with an older age group, we are hoping that the children from our classes see a natural progression to theirs at the right time.

Heidi Lindsell

THE CRU – REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/2010

One major challenge for our church seems to be its difficulty to attract and keep youth. However, it is fair to say that most of our youth activities take place mid-week and outside the church building. Like others of our youth groups, the Cru membership has experienced relative growth. We hope that this dynamic will carry on through the coming year.

We have had a number of activities and outings, the highlight being probably our sponsored walk (Children Society) around some of the famous landmarks in London.

While continuing with the Cross Scheme (preparation towards confirmation), we have introduced three new concepts: *Mind the gap* (an opportunity for us to invite someone from the community to share with us something about their life), *Come fly with me* (opportunity for the young people to share with us something they are passionate about), and *Cloud of witnesses* (we look at contemporary Christian Saints and Heroes). The Cru members have greatly enjoyed their contribution to our youth Eucharist. We are hoping, this year again, to bring a more visible contribution to the life of the church; through our youth service, the occasional youth Eucharist or through a piece in the Parish magazine.

Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR – REPORT TO APCM 2009/2010

Provision for education and worship for the young people of our community from birth to 30 years old continues much as before but with one or two differences.

minisaints

This group is now into its fourth year and so is well established. The routine of free play, story and singing followed by a themed craft activity provides a structure which attracts a core group of regular mums/dads/grannies/carers and toddlers. Numbers still vary but we average 18 each week and can have 40 plus on the register. Linda and Jill assist with story time, we are often fortunate to have Debbie (and occasionally Daniel) to accompany the singing session, and Barbara continues to take the register. Many heartfelt thanks for their support as well as to the ladies on the rota who help with the refreshments.

Super Saints

Thanks to Sonja and Heidi for leading this group for the first part of the year and for Heidi and Linda for continuing when Sonja took over as Musical Director. A report is included elsewhere.

Sunday Explorers A group for 8-11 year olds run alongside Super Saints and led by Jill and John.

Explorers

Meeting on Thursdays, this group for 8-11 year olds has eight members. We follow the scheme devised specifically for this group, looking at the Bible, the life of the church and people who have made a difference to others. We also have games, quizzes and treasure hunts etc. Thank you to Margaret and Lusa for helping me.

The CRU

Anne and Lusa continue to lead this group for 11-17 year olds and grateful thanks to them.

ASC

Because of the commitments to other activities this group now meets once or twice a term instead of monthly.

Youth Services

During the past year we have made a few changes to the Youth Services. This is partly because the group of young people taking part is fairly small and they sometimes have other commitments and partly because very few people actually come along to support them. We will continue to have these services occasionally in the evening, but in January the young people joined with Gill in leading a Family/Youth Eucharist at 10am and they will be taking part in other Family Services from time to time in the future. Thank you to Lusa for sometimes taking the reins and to Debbie and the music group for their continued support.

Family Services

Involving different people to lead these services has provided a variety of different talents and enriched our worship, as well as involving the Young People more too. Again thanks to Debbie and her group for supporting us musically.

Education

Adult

A variety of courses have taken place this year. In October we were led into 'A Journey through the Reformation' by Anita, Lusa and Kevin, which proved to be very interesting. Lusa ran some French lessons in autumn and during Advent he also showed us some very thought provoking films. As I write this both Gill and Lusa are leading courses for Lent.

Children

As reported above. Rachel Layzell has also organised All Age Workshops for Harvest and Advent, and Good Friday is being planned as I write. Many thanks to her and her team of assistants. These continue to be an important part of our outreach, especially as for some children (and maybe their parents too,) it is the only time they come into the church.

Marion Whatmore

CHURCHES TOGETHER – REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/2010

Churches Together in Staplehurst have continued to produce the Easter and Christmas service leaflets; delivered by the various congregations; and we are very grateful for their help. Our fifth Sunday services together continue and will into 2010.

The Good Friday Witness and distribution of free hot cross buns in messaged napkins will continue on the shopping parade and has brought new people into our churches over the years. Our other annual tasks include co-ordinating Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Women's World Day of Prayer services. We also prepare and help distribute the annual Christian Aid envelopes, again with much appreciated help from the congregations.

In 2009 we had hoped to hold a village picnic to enable members of the different Churches to meet socially, our hosts sudden illness prevented this but it has now been re-scheduled for 2010.

We hope that in 2010 that more church related activities can be opened out and we could attend each others Lent or Advent courses for example.

As always our main aim through these activities is spread the message that although our worship styles are different we all love and serve the same God and that anyone is welcome to join our services.

Margaret Ashby

WEALD DEANERY – REPORT TO APCM 2009/2010

An exciting and challenging year for the deanery. We welcomed two new ministers into the Deanery: in September Richard Williams was inducted at Cranbrook and in December, Brian Curnew to Headcorn with the Suttons. Both parishes are settling down well. Sutton Valance, Chart Sutton and East Sutton feel very much part of our deanery now and have joined us in deanery events.

The Deanery Prayer group still meets regularly every second Monday and has become such a valuable part of deanery life. My thanks go to Pat Sherlock who supports this group so faithfully. Our synod meetings have been varied: We welcomed Richard King, from the Diocesan Board of mission as an introduction to the course he ran in Staplehurst on Mission; Mary Bucknell spoke to us about her ministry to Deaf and Disability. In November we shared a topic "Ministry out side the walls, looking at outreach projects from each parish

Each year it is with much anxiety Gill and I approach our Deanery money day, when we come together as a Deanery to offer our Parish share. Yet again in 2009 we achieved our total for this financial year. As a Deanery we do recognize that we are one of the most affluent areas of the diocese and have the potential to achieve our responsibility to the Diocese. Staplehurst as a Parish gets very good value for what we pay when you consider two full time ministers in Gill and Lusa, those members of our church family that have completed or are in training and the support we receive from the diocesan officers

Thank you to our PCC representatives, Karen Kember, Sylvia Lade and John Dodman, and to Gill, our Area Dean. Gill has decided that she will retire as Area Dean at the end of April and although I know it is right for her, it brings to the end what has been a very good period of time for our Deanery. We have achieved much and there has been a real sense of being a cohesive group and working closely together on all aspects of Deanery life. I have very much enjoyed working with Gill and I think it has been a good partnership. There have been challenges to work through, and we have shared much. Meetings, probably a few too many, laughter, lots, tears, a few, hospitality, loads, travelling, many miles, and just the odd glass or two (no surprise there) Thank you Gill for the support and encouragement you have given me as Lay Chair.

Val Wallis

DIOCESAN SYNOD – REPORT TO THE APCM APRIL 2010

We now have just two Diocesan Synod meetings a year, usually from 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Before every Synod meeting, members from the House of Laity meet at Diocesan House to discuss the forthcoming meeting and share a light supper together. These meetings are very useful, usually led by the Diocesan Secretary, Julian Hills and the Laity Chairman, Caroline Spencer. It gives the Laity a chance to discuss matters without the clergy!

May 2009

A presentation from the Fresh Expressions National Team was given, which included ideas from some parishes in the diocese as to what their parishes are implementing to bring Fresh Expressions into the church worship. There was also an opportunity to ask questions of the team.

A report was given by Mrs. Hilary Richter (Warden of Readers) and a presentation was made by the Readers' Team. The subject was 'The Future of Reader Ministry'.

The Diocesan Budget was presented for 2010, but was considered to need a "rehash" and an extraordinary meeting was made for July 2009.

July 1st

At the extraordinary meeting of the Synod, the Budget, having been revised by the Diocesan Board of Finance, was approved by members of the Synod.

November 2009

New members of the Diocesan Synod were welcomed and Chairman for the Houses of Clergy and Laity were chosen by their respective members. The Address was given by Bishop Stephen Venner. This was his last Diocesan Synod as Bishop of Dover, before his retirement in November. He said how much he and his wife appreciated the love, care and encouragement shown to them in the time that he had been in the post as Bishop of Dover and that it would remain with them always as a wonderful time in their lives.

We learned something of the work of our Assistant Vocations officers in a vivid presentation and our next Diocesan Director of Ordinands address us on his work.

Val Wallis and I consider it a great privilege to serve on the Diocesan Synod as representatives from this parish and the Weald Deanery. There are many matters discussed at meetings, and should anyone be interested in learning more about these discussions, then either one of us or Gill, our Rector, will, I am sure, be only too pleased to help.

Sylvia Lade

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE APCM 2009/2010

This Committee continues to work hard to bring our congregations together at social events. Most events are done at costs only as raising funds is not our main objective.

The Parish lunch started the year off and this was a very successful occasion and it was good to see a good mix of our church family coming together. The pancake party was the next event. There appears to be an endless appetite for Pancakes and each year we are amazed at how many can be eaten in a space of an hour or two. Over two hundred were cooked and eaten. In May our Cream tea season started. This is for fund raising and although numbers varied from week to week it was good to have the church open and used and over £500 was raised. My grateful thanks go to all those who worked hard and made it possible. There were two breakfasts, held between 8.00am and 10.00am services on Sunday, both well attended. In July we celebrated Lusa's Priesting with a lunch in the church which was a huge success. The church's year rolls on and Harvest was celebrated with a lunch in the church. Due to the weather conditions, unfortunately, "Carols and Candlelight" had to be cancelled which I know was a disappointment to many but the icy pavements would have made people's journeys treacherous.

My thanks to our committee members, small in number but very committed. Also to their spouses, who are so willing to help, and to others who have helped at events. We do enjoy working together and there is usually a lot of laughter. If you feel you would like to join this committee or help at an event do talk to one of us.

Val Wallis

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS – REPORT TO APCM 2009/2010

Fund raising activity continued throughout 2009, in accordance with our objective of supporting the PCC in maintaining and improving the fabric of the Church.

Although the events we put on are primarily intended to raise funds, they are also highly enjoyable social events, open to all and not just churchgoers. Indeed the Proms Night in September and the Shepherds Market in December were enjoyed by many people from the village and beyond.

Membership numbers remained steady during the year.

Over the year, the Friends provided £1,062.05 for general maintenance in the Church.

During the year the Friends have raised around £2,750 from social activities, with further income from contributions from our Members, and from supporting the Bell Lane recycling site.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, and all of the many other people who have helped us to run the events. The Committee, and I, hope you have enjoyed your involvement and look forward to your continued support.

Caroline Highwood, Chairman

Please note that this information is provided in advance of our full audited accounts being available. These will be presented at our AGM on 19 May.

PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST

Minutes of Easter Vestry Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2009

1. Revd. Canon Gill Calver opened the meeting, welcoming all those who attended.

Gill thanked all who take leading roles in church, week by week, from the youngest to the oldest, those include the youth teams, the ministry teams, the choir, churchwardens, sidespeople etc.

Churchwarden Norman Wallis and Robin Oakley were thanked for the supervising the working on the St. Georges' Chapel.

Gill paid tribute to Patrick Harrison, our Church Treasurer, who died in February, and to the work of the Finance Team following Patrick's death.

We now, Gill said, have to get on with the work and our chief concern at present is our financial position with a large deficit predicted. In order to minister effectively, we all need to think again about the part we play.

Gill had met with the Archdeacon and other Area Deans throughout the Diocese and said that other parishes and deaneries were in a similar position, but many are much poorer than us as communities.

Outstanding unpaid parish shares in our Diocese last year amounted to a million pounds. As we have no reserves in church now, we have to give generously to pay our way.

2. Prayers were then led by the Rector.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

Norman Wallis was re-elected as churchwarden, proposed by Sylvia Lade and seconded by Kevin Fulcher. Pat Sherlock was proposed by Alaine Summers and seconded by Sylvia Lade as churchwarden, to replace Alaine Summers who had completed her term as churchwarden.

Gill thanked Alaine for her work during her time as churchwarden, and also thanked her husband Brian for his support during Alaine's term of office.

Alaine spoke movingly of the time of warden, thanking everyone for their support and love, which she felt would continue for many years to come.

4. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting – 21st April 2008

Proposed by Audrey Bullock and seconded by Karen Kember, it was agreed to accept the minutes of the meeting, which were duly signed.

5. Date of Next Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Monday 19th April 2010.

PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 19th April 2010

1. Attendance
The meeting was attended by 60 people.
- 2 a) Apologies
These were received from:- Marion and Jack Christie, Maurice and Brioni Armytage, Margaret Friswell, Nick Wells, Andrew and Debbie Brady, David Wass, Ted Hall, Helen Wilkins, Sally-Ann and Richard Barclay and Sue Elwell.
- b) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 20th April 2009
Proposed by Audrey Bullock and seconded by Pam Mortley, the meeting voted to accept the minutes of the APCM 2009.
3. Matters Arising – none.
4. Presentation of Electoral Roll and Election of Electoral Roll Officer
The number on last year's list was incorrect and should have read 128 names and not 138 names.
This year numbers stand at 132 names.
John Dodman was re-elected as Electoral Roll Officer, proposed by Karen Kember and seconded by Lesley Whitwood. All approved.
5. Membership of the PCC
Anne Brenchley and Colin Whatmore were standing down from the PCC having completed their term of six years in office. Gill thanked them both for all their help and hard work over the years. Five people were nominated for PCC, Sonja Drew had completed three years and was eligible to stand for another three; other nominees were Audrey Bullock, Anne Butler, Sue Elwell and Brian Summers.
Members were asked to vote for no more than three people. Those elected were Sonja Drew (re-elected), Anne Butler and Brian Summers.
6. **Annual Reports**
Canon Gill thanked all those who had submitted reports and for their continued work in all areas.

Magazine
Peter Mortley felt that the magazine was a very good outreach for all the village. The monthly output was 860 magazines. A very willing band of 56 distributors operate in all weathers throughout the year.

Deanery Synod
Canon Gill said that she was standing down as Area Dean at the end of April. This will enable her to spend more time in the parish.

No other matters arose from the reports.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Kevin Fulcher explained how he and his wife Ann were very fortunate to have Alex Finlow, a trainee friend of Kevin's, who helped them sort out the accounts prior to the PCC's approval. Alex Finlow is an accountant with one of the world's largest airlines, Mission Aviation Fellowship.

The deficit stands at £2,400. This would be much more, but Kevin has been chasing up several utility companies and has retrieved money which has been over-claimed. However, this can only be done once and we need to watch our expenses.

Kevin explained that we actually have no restricted funds but do have designated funds which can be re-assigned to new projects. The Bellringers' fund is separate but is still included in the church accounts.

The report was approved by all – proposed by Colin Whatmore and seconded by Audrey Bullock.

Independent Examiner

Thanks were expressed to Rory Silkin, the independent Examiner. A letter of thanks will be sent to Rory. He has agreed to act as Examiner for the next year. It was proposed by Caroline Highwood and seconded by Sheila Brooker that he should continue. All approved.

A presentation was given by the Curate, Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, explaining the reasons for giving money to the church, what is done with it, how much the weekly bill is for the church and what the money is spent on.

8. Election of Sidespeople

A list of Sidespeople was read out, three names came off the list and three names went on. Proposed by Steve Bennett and seconded by Izzy Hammond.

9. Any Other Business

- a) Ron Hegarty announced that 28 people were going to Oberammagau in May. Six were from Staplehurst and others from around the Diocese.
- b) Alaine Summers said that the Parish Weekend details had not yet been organized. This is to be discussed at the first meeting of the new PCC.
- c) A change of format for the Cream Teas this year has been discussed by the Social Committee. This year it will be held in church once a month with other items of interest to be included.
- d) It is hoped to have a Gift Day this year on the Saturday of Harvest Festival weekend.
- e) The Church Fete this summer will be held at the Rectory on 17th July.
- f) Canon Gill surprised us all by announcing that this would be her last APCM. She intends to retire in January 2011 after her 64th birthday.

The next APCM is to be held on Tuesday 26th April 2011.

The meeting closed with Grace at 9.30 p.m.

At a very short meeting of the PCC after the APCM, the Secretary, Sylvia Lade and the Treasurer, Ann Fulcher were unanimously voted to stay in their respective offices.

Parish Church of All Saints, STAPLEHURST