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ST CATHERINE'S PCC

BACKGROUND:

St Catherine's PCC works with the clergy team on behalf of the congregation and people of Mile Cross & Catton Grove to fulfill that which it believes God is calling us to as a Church in this part of Norwich.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership over this last year (2007/8) has been:

Rev Paul Mackay (Chair) - Vicar
Valerie Fernandez – Curate (Moved to Diocese of Ely Jan 08)

Ruth Lambert - Church Warden
Brian Garner - Church Warden

Constance Harris- Deanery Synod Rep elected '05
John Harris- Deanery Synod Rep elected '05
Peter Wilde- Deanery Synod Rep elected '05

Catherine D'Oyley elected '05
Sharon Hamilton elected '05
Susan Mackay elected '05

Richard Brook elected '06
Joyce Lincoln elected '06
Scott Marrison elected '06
Richard Proudfoot elected '06
David Long elected '06 for 2 years

Margaret Bazely elected '07
Simon Bransby elected '07
Patrick Hamilton elected '07
Margaret Proudfoot elected '07

Usual period of election is for three years. The PCC has a policy that after six consecutive years of service members are invited to take a sabbatical break for a period of one year before seeking re-election.

COMMITTEES & ACTION GROUPS:

The PCC operates in a number of areas through Committees & Action Groups meeting as appropriate and necessary.

These are:

Standing Committee: The only committee required by law. It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the Council.

Finance Action Group: A group charged with the responsibility, under the PCC, of looking after and developing the financial side of life at St Catherine's.

Youth & Children's Leaders: A group charged with the responsibility, under the PCC, of maintaining and developing our work with young people both churched and unchurched.

Reports from these groups are contained later in this report. It is our intention to constantly review such groups and to develop them where necessary in order to use the many gifts and abilities we have in our midst to oversee different areas of Church life.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The number on the electoral roll as at 31 December was 107

VICAR'S REPORT

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say this, those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. *Psalms 107:1 - 7*

Those who know me well, I imagine by now know, that I love the psalms; they provide a great source of encouragement, comfort and reality to my life and ministry. The truths they revealed in the past provide gateways for us today as well. It is something of a cliché to describe both the church corporate and its members as being on a journey, but some clichés remain as fact. Very few journeys are uneventful, and often they provide us with new challenges, new vistas and new opportunities. As we journeyed into this year, we always knew that it would bring enormous financial challenge, and until the second May Bank holiday weekend we thought we were doing okay. Then as you may recall it rained. Part of the hall roof decided that enough was enough and so buckets were spread to catch the flood (which I am sure will be reported elsewhere).

The wardens and PCC felt we had no choice but to remedy the situation as far as we could, and so our finances took a massive knock. Thankfully this was compensated by what I gather must be the most successful St Catherines Gift weekend ever. This rollercoaster ride may well carry on for many years, as major building works and repairs continue to affect not just our church but large numbers of churches across the country. It is therefore important to remember we don't tread this path alone.

And so, as a snapshot of my concerns and reassurances and I am sure that of many of my fellow travellers, those two items above provide a glimpse into 2007 at St Catherines. Highs and lows through the year were plenty, yet it is how we 'ride the waves' that matters.

At the beginning of the year personally we found ourselves under great strain as Sue's mum became seriously ill and then died of cancer. Our thanks go to those who supported us prayerfully and in many other ways. The benefits of a Christian family once again became very apparent.

Running a busy parish continues to be difficult and frankly at times stressful, though as above, at the same time a joy and great privilege. And this year perhaps more than before the parish has struck me as an 'urban village', time and time again I come across people and families who I have had previous contact with. The benefit of a 'long term' commitment to the community on both my part and that of the church family is apparent, appreciated and huge. The Lord and the Bishop willing I have a few more years left here and many things still to accomplish.

By way of some more snapshots, later in the year Val Fernandez announced she had been appointed as curate in charge of a benefice in the Ely Diocese, and so her short time with us will come to an end in January, our prayers are with her as she journeys on. Our Xplorers children's work continues and there are plans to start a new Thursday club in January, to which I have committed myself for the coming year in the hope that in 2009 it will be able to continue without me. I decided following the APCM to discontinue the LMT and will look early in the new year to consider the possibility of a mission taskforce and a pastoral taskforce instead.

Rev Paul Mackay

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

St Catherine's continues to be a busy place and the issue of the re-wiring is slowly "plodding along". Emergency repairs had to be completed on the hall roof and more works on both the hall and Church are needed if we are to stop the rain coming in to the buildings.

The grass at the front of the church is now in much better condition since the erection of posts with a chain between that has stopped cars parking on it and churning it in wet weather.

Our thanks to the many people that have helped us to serve in this last year, the sides persons, gardener and Church cleaner especially.

Our pray for 2008 is that we continue to be a welcoming place for the people of this community.

Brian Garner & Ruth Lambert
Churchwardens.

St Catherine's Parochial Church Council

Payments and Receipts Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2007

General fund

Receipts	2006	2006	2007	2007
Income from Donors				
Freewill Offering	14515.83		14237.25	
Collections	3642.67		4331.78	
S/O Gift Aid	14862.65		16121.78	
Income Tax Received	<u>3497.15</u>		<u>9404.75</u>	
		36518.30		44095.56
Other Voluntary Income				
Donations	2560.17		3221.70	
Legacy	<u>18306.66</u>		<u>300.00</u>	
		20866.83		3521.70
Income from operating activities to generate funds				
Web site Commission	-		23.51	
Sale of Coffee and eggs	106.46		66.20	
Summer Fair Income	-		664.41	
Surplus from Agape Meal	<u>-</u>		<u>7.56</u>	
		106.46		761.68
Other income				
Hall Receipts	2890.00		5152.92	
Fees	<u>1989.00</u>		<u>2069.00</u>	
		4879.00		7221.92
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest & Dividends	442.79		1497.36	
T.Plus Commission	<u>96.42</u>		<u>31.94</u>	
		539.21		1529.30
Total Receipts		<u>62909.80</u>		<u>57130.16</u>
	2006	2006	2007	2007
Payments				
Church Activities				
Diocesan Parish Share (shortfall of £22594)	-33000.00		-18000.00	Note: Additional £2995 paid via Tithe Account
Clergy Expenses	-1905.36		-2085.69	
IT	-732.36		-813.30	
Parish Expenses	-1025.07		-1239.59	
Worship Resources	-1262.76		-758.87	
Licenses	-368.99		-323.99	
Organist	-48.00		-	
Anglian Water	-230.49		-488.48	
Cleaner & Gardener	-2594.55		-3014.42	

	2006	2006	2007	2007
Church heat/light	-2360.73		-3447.56	
Church Insurance	-1953.56		-1162.61	
Church Housekeeping/grounds	-148.43		-191.54	
Hall heat/light	-1876.00		-3396.57	
Hall Insurance	-933.61		-792.35	
Hall Housekeeping	-261.84		-217.43	
Sunday Club Resources	-206.43		-216.81	
Carpet for Side Chapel	-400.00		-	
		-49308.18		-36149.21
Administration		-1205.55		-1042.05
Total Payments		-50513.73		-37191.26
Transfers to/from designated funds				
Maintenance	-2995.50		-2380.50	
Tithe	-5991.00		-4761.00	
Transfer to Maintenance Fund	-10000.00		-10500.00	
Transfer to Parish Mission Fund	-4.07		-	
Transfer from Tape Library Fund	-		17.00	
Transfer from Houseparty Fund	-		119.00	
Transfer to Alpha Fund	-		-400.00	
		-18990.57		-17905.50
Total Payments and Transfers		-69504.30		-55096.76
Surplus/deficit on General Fund		-6594.50		2033.40

	2006	2006	2007	2007
<u>Designated Funds</u>				
<u>Organ Fund Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Fees	260.00		340.00	
Payments Tuning & Repairs	-91.55		-4941.83	
Excess of receipts over payments		168.45		-4601.83
<u>Maintenance Fund Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Fees	320.00		320.00	
Payments Windows	-705.00		-96.35	
Tree Surgery	-500.00		-	
Appliance Service & Repair	-661.66		-1352.09	
Ramps	-158.16		-	
Architects Fees	-1906.23		-7595.40	
Alarm System	-672.05		-198.59	
Hall Electrics	-24059.16		-	
Hall Roof	-		-10968.15	
Posts and Locks	-		-538.83	
Hedge Trimmer	-		-239.00	
Crime Reduction Signs	-		-76.38	
Wasp Nest removal	-		-30.00	
Excess of payments over receipts		-28342.26		-20774.79
Transfer from General Fund 5% Tithe		2995.50		2380.50
Extra Transfer from General Fund		10000.00		10500.00
Transfer from Gift Day Account		-		8000.00
Net excess/deficit		-15346.76		105.71

	2006	2006	2007	2007
<u>Sunday Club Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Pringle Tubs	11.36		-	
Payments IMO for Stephen Nathaniel	<u>-100.00</u>		<u>-</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		-88.64		-
Transfer to Young People's Work Fund		<u>-</u>		<u>-134.11</u>
Net excess/deficit		<u>-88.64</u>		<u>-134.11</u>
<u>Scripture Union Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Sales of Bible reading notes	746.14		389.17	
Payments Purchase of Bible reading notes	<u>-399.40</u>		<u>-396.93</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		<u>346.74</u>		<u>-7.76</u>
<u>Traidcraft Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Sales of Traidcraft goods	1258.66		1592.15	
Payments Purchase of Traidcraft goods	-1164.07		-1586.05	
Donation to Traidcraft	<u>-</u>		<u>-300.20</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		<u>94.59</u>		<u>-294.10</u>
<u>Bell Fund Receipts and Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Fees	<u>-</u>		<u>120.00</u>	
Excess of receipts over payments		<u>-</u>		<u>120.00</u>
<u>Totstop Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Barkers Photos	-		103.28	
Payments Balance for Little Tikes	-		-34.99	
Part hall hire	<u>-15.58</u>		<u>-6.46</u>	
Excess of receipts over payments		<u>-15.58</u>		<u>61.83</u>
<u>Friday Club Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Subscription & Tuck	156.80		-	
Horstead trip	433.00		-	
Grant from Norfolk County Council	<u>600.00</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total Receipts		1189.80		-
Payments Tuck	-112.69		-	
Horstead trip	<u>-1134.88</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total Payments		<u>-1247.57</u>		<u>-</u>
Excess of payments over receipts		-57.77		-
Transfer to Young People's Work Fund		<u>-</u>		<u>-1212.29</u>
Net excess/deficit		<u>-57.77</u>		<u>-1212.29</u>
<u>Football Team Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Subscriptions	117.50		57.50	
Payments Affiliation, Insurance, Pitch Hire, Equ	-250.95		-60.60	
Fine	-		-33.00	
Kit	<u>-384.95</u>		<u>-</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		<u>-518.40</u>		<u>-36.10</u>
<u>Flower Fund Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Payments Flowers & Equipment	<u>-41.75</u>		<u>-</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		<u>-41.75</u>		<u>-</u>
<u>Tithe Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Payments Crosslinks	-1863.20		-1118.00	
Church Pastoral Aid Society	-465.80		-279.50	

	2006	2006	2007	2007
Bible Society	-465.80		-279.50	
Zambesi Mission	-465.80		-279.50	
Leprosy Mission	-465.80		-279.50	
Evangelical Alliance	-80.00		-100.00	
Magdalane Project	-212.90		-	
4C's Counselling Centre	-		-186.50	
Norfolk Street Pastors	-		-186.50	
S Nathaniel (Happy Home)	-212.90		-186.50	
Church Army	-212.90		-	
Oxfam	-212.90		-	
Diocesan Parish Share	-		-2995.50	
Excess of payments over receipts		-4658.00		-5891.00
Transfer from General Fund 10% Tithe		5991.00		4761.00
Net excess/deficit		1333.00		-1130.00
<u>Parish Mission Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Payments Mission Resources	-327.84		-	
Excess of payments over receipts		-327.84		-
Transfer from General Fund		4.07		-
Net excess/deficit		-323.77		-
<u>Youth Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Donation for Holiday Club	115.30		-	
Payments Holiday Club	-70.08		-	
Excess of receipts over payments		45.22		-
Transfer to Young People's Work Fund		-		-80.80
Net excess/deficit		45.22		-80.80
<u>Alpha Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Alpha Donations	298.19		63.00	
Payments Expenses	-410.18		-347.11	
Excess of payments over receipts		-111.99		-284.11
Transfer from General Fund		-		400.00
Net excess/deficit		-111.99		115.89
<u>Gift Day Projects Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Tax rebate on previous year gifts	682.57		1379.10	
This years gifts	5448.63		10585.82	
Frank's Snooker Marathon	617.93		40.00	
Total Receipts		6749.13		12004.92
Payments Expenses	-199.92		-303.17	
Hall electrics	-2303.16		-	
Total Payments		-2503.08		-303.17
Excess of receipts over payments		4246.05		11701.75
Transfer to Maintenance Fund		-		-8000.00
Net excess/deficit		4246.05		3701.75
<u>YNOTSTOP Receipts and Payments Account</u>				
Receipts	143.90		109.91	
Payments	-45.00		-	
Excess of receipts over payments		98.90		109.91
<u>Reality Account Receipts and Payments Account</u>				
Receipts	760.00		-	

	<u>2006</u>	2006	<u>2007</u>	2007
Payments	-509.94		-	
Excess of receipts over payments		<u>250.06</u>		-
<u>Young People's Work Receipts and Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Friday Club	-		67.10	
Explorers	-		160.05	
Caty Bear Club	-		<u>63.34</u>	
Total Receipts		-		290.49
Payments Explorers	-		-752.13	
Caty Bear Club	-		<u>-32.47</u>	
Total Payments		-		<u>-784.60</u>
Excess of payments over receipts		-		-494.11
Transfer from Friday Club Fund		-		1212.29
Transfer from Youth Fund				80.80
Transfer from Sunday Club Fund		-		134.11
Transfer from TGIF Fund		<u>-</u>		<u>400.00</u>
		<u>-</u>		<u>1333.09</u>
<u>TGIF Receipts and Payments</u>				
Transfer to Young People's Work Fund		<u>-</u>		<u>-400.00</u>
<u>Tape Library Receipts and Payments</u>				
Transfer to General Fund		<u>-</u>		<u>-17.00</u>
<u>Houseparty Receipts and Payments</u>				
Transfer to General Fund		<u>-</u>		<u>-119.00</u>

	2006	2006	2007	2007
<u>Restricted Funds</u>				
<u>Restricted Funds Receipts & Payments Account</u>				
Receipts Donation for Website	-		500.00	
Donation for a Fundraiser	-		2000.00	
Macdougall Garden Project	<u>315.00</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total Receipts		315.00		2500.00
Payments Website Fee	-		-67.19	
Macdougall Tot Stop Purchase	<u>-200.00</u>		<u>-115.00</u>	
Total Payments		<u>-200.00</u>		<u>-182.19</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		<u>115.00</u>		<u>2317.81</u>
Summary				
Total Receipts		75194.78		75020.58
Total Payments		<u>-91595.93</u>		<u>-73154.18</u>
Net Payments/Receipts		-16401.15		1866.40
Bank balances at 1 January 2007		<u>41964.40</u>		<u>25563.25</u>
Bank balances at 31 December 2007		<u>25563.25</u>		<u>27429.65</u>

Designated Accounts with separate bank accounts

Tuesday Fellowship Receipts & Payments Account

Receipts Tea Money	58.61		58.42
Alice	69.92		-
Outings	680.00		674.80
Donations	-		52.35

	2006	2006	2007	2007
Subscriptions	40.50		43.50	
Offerings	240.39		193.26	
Total Receipts		1089.42		1022.33
Payments Donations	-450.00		-300.00	
Expenses	-23.00		-	
Cards & Postage	-22.05		-48.02	
Outings	-676.75		-596.05	
Total Payments		-1171.80		-944.07
Excess of receipts over payments		-82.38		78.26
Bank Current A/C at 1 January 2007		228.48		146.10
Bank Current A/C at 31 December 2007		146.10		224.36

Magazine Receipts & Payments Account

Receipts Distributors Cash	547.59		485.03	
Advertising	550.00		902.50	
Total Receipts		1097.59		1387.53
Payments Stationery & Postage	-101.14		-65.02	
Printing	-728.46		-1008.00	
Equipment	-135.12		-	
Total Payments		-964.72		-1073.02
Excess of receipts over payments		132.87		314.51
Bank Current A/C at 1 January 2007		240.00		372.98
Bank Current A/C at 31 December 2007		372.98		687.49

Bookstall Receipts & Payments Account

Receipts Sale of Cards	50.50		16.05	
Payments Cheque to St. Catherines PCC	-		-352.89	
Excess of payments over receipts		50.50		-336.84
Bank Current A/C at 1 January 2007		286.34		336.84
Bank Current A/C at 31 December 2007		336.84		0.00

Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2007

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	Tuesday Fellowship A/C	Magazine A/C	Total 2007	Total 2006
Monetary Assets and Liquid Investments						
Bank Current A/C's	-5448.64	2432.81	224.36	687.49	-2103.98	2280.63
A&L Business Account	30445.48				30445.48	24138.54
Trust Funds	120.00				120.00	120.00
Co-op Vouchers	150.00				150.00	150.00
Total Monetary Assets	25266.84	2432.81	224.36	687.49	28611.50	26689.17
Debtors						
Gift Aid in respect of 2007 General Fund					1784.03	3942.17
Gift Aid in respect of 2007 Gift Day					1200.69	1379.10
Hall Hire						
Total Debtors					2984.72	5321.27
Liabilities						
					Nil	Nil

General Fund Monetary Assets are designated as follows:

	2007	2006
Organ Fund	1611.99	6213.82
Maintenance Fund	1114.10	1008.39
Sunday Club	-	134.11
Scripture Union Notes	441.65	449.41
Traidcraft	232.27	526.37
Bell fund	120.00	-
Totstop	704.27	642.44
Friday Club	-	1212.29
Football Team	94.99	131.09
Tithe	4861.00	5991.00
Youth	-	80.80
Alpha	3.90	-111.99
Gift Day Projects	11365.23	7663.48
Ynotstop	208.81	98.90
Reality	250.06	250.06
Young People's Work	1333.09	-
Y Worship	20.02	20.02
TGIF	-	400.00
Houseparty	-	119.00
Tape Library	-	17.00
Unallocated Fund *	2905.46	672.06
Total	<u>25266.84</u>	<u>25518.25</u>

- Includes correction of £200
- re error in prior year accounts

Payments & Grants made during the Year from specific giving

	2006	2007
Euroaid	435.70	423.41
Childrens Society	167.21	112.10
EACH (Quidenham)	513.58	-
Christian Hope International	38.42	-
Val Fernandez Ordination Gift	110.00	-
CMJ	-	67.19
Al Shooruq	-	140.20
Ordinates Fund	-	105.45
Total	<u>1264.91</u>	<u>535.51</u>

Notes Restricted Gifts

Fund Raiser	2000.00
Web Site Grant (Balance)	432.81
Total	<u>2432.81</u>

Friday Club, Sunday School, TGIF and Youth Accounts all amalgamated to Young Peoples work. Tape Library and Houseparty Accounts placed in Unallocated Funds.

FINANCE ACTION GROUP REPORT

2007 was a difficult year for the Church's Finances. We paid less than 50% of our Parish Share, due to costs for repairs to the Church Hall roof along with on going Architects fees. Our St. Catherine's Tide Gift Weekend produced a five figure total for the first time. We increased the number of Hall Hirers we have, and this increased our Income accordingly. We changed the Church's Bankers during 2006 and this was the first full year with the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society and the Alliance & Leicester. By ensuring that all the Church funds earn interest our Bank Interest has increased 3 fold.

With work being undertaken on the Church Organ during the year, we will have used the balance in that fund when all the invoices are received. Our Maintenance fund has been used up, and we face an ongoing challenge to pay the day to day running expenses. (Gas, Electricity etc)

We have received numerous financial gifts during the year, and are grateful for those who are tax payers who can Gift Aid them as this increases the value of each gift. Any gift is always gratefully received.

2008 will be another challenging year as we look to raise funds for the work needed to be done in the Church Building. We also face a higher Parish Share figure of £46830.

My prayer for the coming year is that we must be open to God, place our trust in him and take action when opportunities arise.

A goal for this coming year is to improve our stewardship of the blessings we receive from God.

Richard Proudfoot (Treasurer) Bridget Garner Martin Smith

The Receipts and Payments accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities as pages 5 to 11 were approved by the St Catherine's PCC on 12th March 2008 and signed on behalf by:

Rev Paul Mackay Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST CATHERINE'S, NORWICH

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2007, which are set out on page 5 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2001 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Christopher Maw, ACA

Dated 28th March 2008

NORWICH NORTH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Synod has met 3 times in the last year, the first being at St Catherine's in February. At this meeting Bill Jacobs stood down as Lay Chair and Penny Rennie (Sprowston) was elected in his place.

A Deanery strategy had been discussed at the last meeting in 2006, this was agreed for the next 2 years, 2007/08 and 2008/09. The proposal was made that all baptised members of the Church of England and especially those who are PCC members, be encouraged to attend meetings of Synod.

Our speaker was Sue Johns who has been a member of General Synod for many years.

The second meeting was on a Saturday morning in May and at St Paul's, Hellesdon when the Rural Dean, Revd John Bennett and Revd Margaret Whitaker invited those present to look at ways of making the gospel available to more people.

A very wet night at Horsham St Faiths was the venue for the October meeting. The speaker was Susannah Gunner, Diocesan Lay Development Co-ordinator; her topic was "All people committed to growth".

At an earlier meeting Deanery had hi-lighted the need for a lay teaching centre to encourage growth in our Christian life and that of our parishes. The formation of a small group to work with Susannah looking at what the education and personal spiritual development needs are in order that a lay teaching centre would answer those needs.

Earlier in the year I said that I wished to retire as Lay Secretary to the Deanery at the end of 2007. I have enjoyed my 10 years or so as secretary and will miss meeting with friends from neighbouring parishes, hearing the interesting speakers and taking part in discussions. At the APCM this year your parish representatives have to be nominated and elected for the next 3 years, which I am sure will be very interesting.

Joyce Lincoln

PCC REPORT

The PCC has met bi-monthly during the year, with the Standing Committee meeting alternate months, the dates for these being confirmed at the May meeting.

The need for urgent repairs to the buildings and the financial situation aggravated by these has been discussed at most meetings. In July the decision was taken, reluctantly, to stop paying the monthly share payments to the Diocese and advise them of the reason - the need to pay for the urgent repairs to part of the Hall roof, which was allowing water to penetrate into the building at the Mile Cross Road corner. The very wet weather we have experienced this year had made the problem much worse. It was decided to undertake permanent repairs as the difference between the cost of these and short-term repairs was not great and would be a saving in the long term.

Our insurers are aware we are trying to raise funds for the urgent electrical work needed in the church and have not refused to issue a certificate.

In September the decision was made to reduce the annual tithe giving by 50%, this saving would be used to pay part of the share, it being the church's mission to the parish.

Further discussions had taken place regarding the receiving of Holy Communion by those not yet confirmed and the guidelines issued by the Diocese had been studied. Two meetings had been held to allow all church members to ask questions and make their feelings known. In November the PCC agreed we should pursue with the Bishop the giving of Communion to those baptised but not yet confirmed.

Guests to PCC meetings had been Ian Leather, Norwich City Council Community Development Officer, who had spoken on the work of the Ketts Credit union, and the Archdeacon and David Brome to contribute to discussions at the January 2008 meeting when finance was discussed again.

Joyce Lincoln

TIMES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP AND THE LIFE OF PRAYER AT ST CATHERINE'S

The Sunday morning pattern of worship remains pretty much unchanged compared to previous years, we however have been flexible in changing some of the services in order to incorporate for example an 'Xplorers' special service at the end of our half term holiday Bible Club in May/June. Our 'Creative Service' on a Sunday evening, came to an end however Sunday evening services continue with loyal folk, who although small in number value the opportunity to worship in a varied manner.

The number of our occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals continue to be similar to previous years. It remains a great privilege to serve our community in this way. Attendance at our festival services was again higher than in previous years. It has been a continued blessing to welcome the local schools into church throughout the year, and we have certainly benefited from our involvement with them. Again this year, we shared a Lenten bible study with Mile Cross Methodist church, (it is hoped that when Revd Dr Brenda Mosedale moves on in 2008 our connections will continue).

The quality of our preaching, which is based on the Lectionary readings, remains at a high standard and it has been good to welcome 'guest' preachers. The feedback received from visitors and 'newcomers' is generally good, however as the old saying goes 'you can't please all of the people all of the time'! The level of participation in all aspects of our services remains high, and so thanks to all who are involved.

As far as the public prayer life of the church is concerned, our prayer board by the entrance of the church alongside our church family photos and prayer chain for 'crisis' moments, have been well used through the year. In January we had a month of prayer. Our preaching focused on this and we had an evening of prayer and welcomed the Norwich Taize group. As I reflect on the year though I believe this is something we need to revisit. As a church family, and on behalf of the community we need to continue to pray openly and widely.

I give thanks to God that St Catherine's continues to be a place where all can be welcomed; we must not though rest on our laurels and take the past and future for granted.

Rev Paul Mackay

MUSIC REPORT

We are sad that Alan and Sally left us to return to their Baptist roots. We certainly miss them both as friends as well as no longer benefiting from their talents as musicians. We wish them

both well and trust they will be happy with the fellowship at Norwich Central Baptist Church. However we have some new faces that either regularly or occasionally contribute to the music at St Catherine's.

At the latter part of the year the problems on the organ have been attended to and we now have a new switching system to replace the hundreds of fragile wires that formerly connected the keyboard to the organ pipes. Also the Celeste stop, unavailable for a number of years, has been restored.

Sue Mackay has taken over the rota for singers and musicians and this is working well at present. However it is disappointing that in spite of Sue's efforts, singers who cannot turn up for any reason sometimes forget to arrange for cover.

It was great to have the concert by Hellesdon and Sprowston Brass. It was another successful occasion well attended by an appreciative audience which raised a considerable sum for 'Big C'. In 2008 we hope to have a choral concert if it can be arranged in the Autumn.

There has been discussion during the year on how best to take the music we provide on Sunday mornings to a higher standard and weekly practises have been amongst the suggestions made. It would be good if in 2008 the musicians could meet together and express their ideas on the way forward.

Mike Fuggle

PHILADELPHIA HOUSE

This past year has seen some changes which have affected the attendance and provided one or two problems. The main residency now seems to include more short term day care residents. This has impacted on the longer term friendships that have been possible hitherto. In the time that I have been involved with helping to provide worship opportunities, especially when Mike Rowe led the services, we would expect as many as twenty to thirty residents to come. Now only four or five come, and although we sometimes see some new faces, we don't see them on our next visit because they have returned home or moved elsewhere. The dining room where we meet has been completely refurbished and decorated as a restaurant. This initially caused a problem because the restaurant was operating until 6pm and we (mainly St Luke's) at first were expected to hold services in another lounge without access to a musical instrument and with the added difficulty of competing with the television. Hopefully these problems have been overcome for the time being at least. Mrs Liz Turner, the manager of Philadelphia House has been always helpful and stresses that she regards the services as important.

This year the St Catherine's team responsible for services have met together and worked out a rota for the whole year, and we very much intend to continue with what we all consider to be an important part of our mission to these elderly folk. Communion is offered and regularly takes place when Paul makes a monthly visit on a Wednesday.

Mike Fuggle

SUMMER FAIR & ST CATHERINE'S TIDE GIFT WEEKEND

Our Summer Fair in July was a great success. Helped by the glorious weather, the church, hall and grounds were open to the community. With many side stalls including a coconut shy, hoop la, etc and an egg 'n' spoon race, sack race and much more (including throwing 'custard pies' at the vicar – for a small fee!!!) a lot of fun was had.

The usual delicious strawberry teas were available, as well as people benefiting from some wonderful culinary skills with an international flavour of Indian and French dishes (contributions by Nirmala Raviraj and Sandrine Whitmore).

An amazing Fairground Organ was provided by Gordon Barbers, which serenaded the community with its wonderful sound during the afternoon.

The evening saw the return of the Hellesdon and Sprowston Brass Band and this was greatly attended and supported by so many. Refreshments arranged by Gordon Barbers, were available outside, once again the weather was kind.

Our St Catherine's Tide Gift weekend in November began with an early start for many. The church was prepared for 24 stall holders, a vast improvement on last year. With 4 people from the local community booking tables.

The church was full of a great array of crafts with so many talents being very evident. The quality of the goods on sale was commented on by so many who attended.

The refreshments, served in the hall, were once again a great success. With tables being constantly used, with people just sitting and talking while they enjoyed the cakes and pastries on offer. Lunchtime was very busy with the sale of jacket potatoes being a great success.

A 70s/80s party was held in the hall in the evening for those 'adventurous' enough, and a Tea Dance was held on the Sunday afternoon for the more sedate or mature. 5 people who just happened to see the advertisement for the tea dance came along, and along with members of St Catherine's a great time was had. The weekend was a great success.

Our thanks go to everyone who once again gave of their time and support in helping to make both of these occasions a wonderful success.

God continues to bless what we do here in Mile Cross and we should never be surprised, but we always are, the offering for this year's Gift Weekend was a staggering £12004.92

We thank God for giving us the opportunity to build relationships with the community. We pray that the community will see St Catherine's as their church, here for all those who want to enter her doors and grounds.

We look forward to another great year ahead.

Sue Mackay

MISSIONARY REPORTS

CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY

£100.00 was collected and sent to the Headquarters. I am very grateful for the few who support this work and the PCC. Very many thanks.

Ever since 1836 CPAS has been dedicated to the local church to encourage new leaders to provide publications, training events, summer camps, and house parties for hundreds of children who would never have a holiday or spend a week with Christians.

Praise: for the approximately 4500 children and young people who took part in the venture holidays last year.

Prayer: for the General Director John Dunnett and all Ministry Advisors for safety in travelling long distances to meetings.

Goal: encourage more people to pray for the work of CPAS so that churches will be more effective in reaching the lost beginning here at St Catherine's. Their mission motto is our country for Christ.

Anne Rowe

CROSSLINKS

We were able to send £170 in June and £90 in November 2007 from collecting boxes to Crosslinks HQ. As we are not at present linked with a Mission Partner, these donations went to the Crosslinks General Fund, which is essential for the running of the Society. Grateful thanks to all who give in this way.

Beryl Scrivener

EUROAID & OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Once again in 2007 we acted as a receiving depot for Euroaid boxes and also contributed to the charity ourselves. The number of actual boxes once again continues to decline, and we think wisely there is an increase in the money being donated thus ensuring that goods could be purchased locally.

The total amount of money that passed through St Catherine's accounts for Euroaid was £423.41

In 2007 for the first time we collected approx 60 shoeboxes which families filled with goodies for children in Novisad in Serbia for Christmas and were duly sent. We also handled boxes for other churches and Mile Cross Primary school on an informal basis. We plan to do this again in 2008.

Our location and facilities are good as receiving 'depots', and I hope that in 2008 we can continue to help both organisations.

Paul wrote: *All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. Galatians 2:10* I pray that we continue to do the same.

Rev Paul Mackay

THE LEPROSY MISSION

£164 was given in donations and £82.51 from the boxes giving a total of £246.51.

£248 from sales out of the catalogue and a further £98.69 from the coffee afternoon in October as I was able to sell some of the items I had left to friends and family. Thanks to all who support the Mission.

Pray that in leprosy colonies there would be more access to education, work and health care as the vast majority of people living in leprosy colonies survive through begging.

Sue Edwards

SCRIPTURE UNION

There has been quite a lot of movement in those taking the notes this year with some leaving and some changing their notes to a different one, due to the fact that Daily Bread changed its format and did not put the Bible passage in the booklet.

I have been able with the discount we receive been able to give a copy of Daily Bread to newcomers to St Catherine's as a taster. I hope to be able to carry this into 2008.

I hope that more people will find daily notes a help to encourage them to read their Bible on a regular basis.

Brian Garner

ZAMBESI MISSION

Support for the Zambesi Mission continues with 26 people giving, each month or annually, towards the support of Thomas Mpanga, a student at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi. Thomas is the brother of a previous student (Isaac) who was supported by St. Catherine's in 2000/2003. Isaac continues to write to us and is now minister of a large and thriving church of 400-500 people. There is a third brother, Eric, who is the 'North Region Superintendent' for the mission. We were told by Abraham and Ruth that all three brothers are doing great works for the Lord and that they come from a good Christian family.

It was a real blessing to have had a visit from Abraham and Ruth in December during their very busy schedule and that we were able to share a fellowship lunch together.

Please pray for Thomas and all the students as well as the staff of Z.M. both in Malawi and the U.K.

Thank you for all your support, financially and with prayer.

As the cost of support has increased over the years our contributions cover about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the £760 needed

Anyone wishing to join in the support of Z.M and its students please speak to either Linda or David.

Linda and David Johnson

SUNDAY TEACHING GROUPS

The number of children joining the Sunday teaching groups remains much the same and we continue to use Scripture Union teaching material. We are grateful for new people joining our teaching rota, and to Ravi who now teaches.

We welcomed friends from Sea Palling to St Catherine's in April and in August enjoyed an afternoon at the beach and a lovely tea in their village hall. We were able to wish 'God speed' to Richard and Jen Hines who were soon to leave Sea Palling and continue their ministry on the Falkland Isles.

We give praise for the children and young people, for their enthusiasm and enquiring minds. Please pray for them, their teachers and helpers.

Joyce Lincoln On behalf of the team!

TOTSTOP

Numbers remain high with a positive atmosphere prevailing on most weeks. One or two difficulties have arisen with a couple of families but have been quickly resolved.

Highlights included our Easter Service, taken this year by Gaius Phillingham and family, giving us a chance to bid them farewell and to pray for their future in Manningtree; the well attended Harvest Thanksgiving, taken this year by Paul and the Christmas Service with bumper attendance, taken by Val, followed by a party complete with Father Christmas (Alistair!).

The Playbarn outing was a fantastic success and the use of the room and courtyard proved beneficial. It was good to have lunch together as well. Some parents expressed disappointment that we did not include our usual Picnic in the park this year but this was probably just as well in view of the poor weather this summer. We managed to hold the Teddy Bears* Picnic in the church grounds, with the weather holding out beautifully after an unpromising start to the morning.

There have been times when it has proved difficult to run the group because of holidays and personal circumstances. We rely heavily on each individual team member, all of whom have particular responsibilities so they are greatly missed if unable to attend. We are grateful to those who have stepped in to help out on these occasions. Only once have we had to cancel the Monday group because of illness.

Setting up on Monday mornings instead of on Sundays has obviously made the preparation work harder but we have managed to cope with the help of Sue Baldwin and Ruth Lambert. We appreciate this tremendously. We are also very grateful for the continued help of Bill and Keith at the end of each session

Our storage problem has been eased by the installation of David Johnson's fantastic shelves. It is now much tidier and easier to get to resources. Thank you David!

This year we will be celebrating our Silver Jubilee and we give thanks to God for the way his hand has been upon this group over the years.

We give praise for each of the families we have been privileged to work with throughout the year and their response and appreciation.

We pray urgently that God will raise up people willing to join the team in this demanding but exciting work.

We are longing to see more families coming along on Sundays. We have been encouraged by the numbers who attend Christmas services and our "in house" Christian celebrations.

The Tot Stop Team

XPLORERS

We give thanks to God to have so many people that volunteer to help. Each person has a gift which is used to make Xplorers happen.

In 2007 we did 4 events. The first one was on Good Friday; this was held in the hall while a service went on in the Church. At the end parents were invited to stay and have a drink and Hot Cross Buns with the children.

In May the summer half term we did 4 mornings of “Explore the Jungle with Jesus” The Church was transformed into a jungle, both children and parents looked amazed to see this.

In October the story of Fishes and Loaves seemed to be a good choice for our Harvest morning, It was then we noticed a drop in numbers of children with many other activities in the area on a Saturday morning, we only had 22 children attend this.

The Christmas event we decided to try early afternoon. We had an increase of children to 41 in total. After our Christmas event children and parents had refreshments then returned to watch a Veggie Tales film “Star of Christmas”.

In 2008 we have picked the dates for future events. Good Friday being our first, summer half term, Harvest in October and then Christmas.

Our goal to achieve is to have more children from the Mile Cross Estate attending .

Annette Knowles

FRIDAY CLUB

Friday club continued until Easter 2007. Although still very popular with the young people of this estate sadly, due to the shortage of leaders, it became impossible to continue. Some of the young lads had been attending the club from the age of 12 and the last night was quite emotional for all. We still continue to pray for these youngsters and who knows the seeds that we had the privilege to sow may one day bear fruit. Many thanks to all those that supported Friday Club over the years, for their hard work and commitment

Ruth Lambert

Y NOT STOP

Another year has gone by and Y Not Stop is still going well. We have our regulars come every week to have a coffee or tea, they are all known by name now and we look forward to a chat with them. Also we manage to attract new people every month who notice the advertising boards outside and come in to join us. It is good when these people come back a second and third time.

At Christmas we had a special get together with sausage rolls and mince pies, this went down very well and was attended by sixteen people. There was a nice party atmosphere and we were pleased to have some young children there too.

We are hoping to have an Easter special with Hot Cross Buns soon.

Y Not Stop relies on the generosity of the people who come in with donations. We do not want to ask for a set amount for drinks as we want people to decide for themselves what they want to give. This sometimes means that we struggle a little to buy what we need. However we still manage to scrape through every week and keep our heads above water.

Y Not Stop would like to thank those people who have helped this year. It is greatly appreciated and needed. Also thank you to members of the St Catherine’s congregation who regularly pop in to give us some moral support and sample our delicious biscuits!

As the good weather approaches we hope to put some garden tables outside as we did last summer. This usually attracts people from the community to come and join us, which has got to be a positive thing for Y Not Stop and St Catherine's.

Sharon Hamilton

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

It is good that this year our membership has remained constant. At our monthly meetings we have had an interesting mix of speakers, some of whom illustrated their talks with slides or artefacts from other Christian Countries.

In May we were invited to share our meeting with the ladies group of the Salvation Army who meet at Boundary Road.

We have been encouraged by the fact that when we have a members own meeting we are getting several people who contribute items from their favourite Bible passages, Psalms or Christian literature.

We praise the Lord that we have been able once again to give donations to Gateway, Zambezi Mission, for the Ntorda Day care Centre for Orphans and to St Catherine's PCC .

The Offering at our Carol Service was sent to the Viedigal Trust previously Cooper Atkinson Trust for India.

One unexpected cost was £20 given to Grace Dearn to cover postage for knitted clothes sent to Christian hope International, unexpected because since the smoking ban Bingo Players have knitted instead of smoking. Ruth's idea we believe, other knitted thing have gone to Oxfam, Novi Sad, the hospital etc. We are very grateful for all who have knitted for us.

Our aims and prayers are the same as always:- that we are able to continue and enlarge and that Tuesday Fellowship will be a blessing to so many.

Brenda Dickerson

OUTREACH MAGAZINE

After the reorganisation necessary to find a new printer and revising the publication intervals of the previous year, 2007 was the period which would establish whether the decisions we had made, had worked out. I am glad to say that we are still solvent; no one to my knowledge has complained or cancelled their subscription and the placing of the printing with Reephams printers has worked out very well.

In 2007 Ivan, with Joyce, have worked hard to find new advertisers and their success and resulting finance was a big help in meeting our expenses. We are pleased that one or two people have agreed to take on rounds to distribute *Outreach* to our readers. However we are still looking for another volunteer to distribute to Half Mile Road. This was the round for which Peter Fernandez had been responsible before leaving with Val for their new parish in Cambridgeshire. So, we are still up and running and hope to be publishing *Outreach* for many more years to come. One slight gripe—please use the magazine to let us know what is happening at your meetings and in your organisations. Lastly thanks to everyone involved with *Outreach*.

Mike Fuggle

FAIRTRADE

The monthly Fairtrade stall is always busy each month, usually the second Sunday and we thank those who have a regular order. We do make a small profit which we are able to send to Traidcraft to support their work in encouraging and educating the many projects who supply the goods for us to purchase. Thanks to OXFAM for allowing us the sale or return facility on some items.

Another joint Coffee Morning is planned for Fairtrade Fortnight on 8th March 2008 – it is good to work with our Methodist friends each year.

It is very encouraging that so many supermarkets are now stocking a wider range of fairtrade goods and something for which we give thanks.

Ivan and Joyce Lincoln

THE ALPHA COURSE

For the first time and following discussions with Revd Dr Brenda Mosedale we shared the leadership and organisation of our Alpha course with Mile Cross Methodist church. There was a slight increase in numbers nearly 30 in number. And it was good to work ecumenically, this did lead to one or two interesting issues, but not anything that was a real cause for concern and if anything exposed us all to a broader church. I quote from my report last year ‘There is no doubt that through the ministry of cooking and washing up and clearing away, and caring and sharing, and speaking of Christ there were some who came to a stronger and new faith in Christ. A HUGE thanks to all involved.’ This remains unchanged and I hope that I will include the same reflection next year....

Some of those who attended have gone on to be confirmed, which is very encouraging indeed. In September we began an ‘Alpha Plus’ our own extension to the course at which the agenda and ‘syllabus’ was set by the participants. It was and is a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging course to lead and as we covered some issues of medical ethics I was very happy to have a doctor on hand!

I hope that in 2008 we will continue with these important introductory courses and that some of our folk who have already ‘gone through’ will go on to help on future courses as was the case this year and or be part of new house groups.

Rev Paul Mackay

ST CATHERINE’S HALL HIRE

It is great to report that the hall hire has taken off fantastically over the past year with many new hirers coming on board.

Regular hirers from past years include the Guides, Brownies, Extend, Yoga, Blood Donors, Norwich City Council for polling days etc who all continue to be satisfied with using our facilities.

New regular weekly hirers such as a Short Mat Bowls Team, Morris Dancers, Shine Musical Theatre Company, Dads R Us are to name but a few.

Even with the fact that rain was pouring into the hall during a very wet period in the spring, everyone was very supportive and continued without fail to use the hall.

The hall is very much still used for casual hire for children's birthday parties, weddings and baptisms and it is exciting to see it used in so many ways.

Thanks go to God for giving us the opportunity to build relationships with all our hirers, and we thank them for their support.

We look forward to another great year ahead, with new contacts already having been made for future regular use of our hall facilities.

Our prayer is that the hall will continue to be used, it is a great resource and means of outreach to the community.

Sue Mackay

DEVELOPMENT GROUP

We set up the group in 2007 to look at funding for various projects at St Catherine's. We have been very fortunate to have assistance from Rachael Barber of Gordon Barber Funeral Directors and Peter Daines of Handelsbanken Norwich and input from a number of people. We have put together a number of events starting with a launch dinner, although plan a quiz night before then.

Prayer

Please be prayerful and supportive with regards to the events coming up and in relation to any grant applications we submit.

Goal for the year

To raise lots of cash and make enough progress, so that a clearer view for the future development of our plans and ideas can be made.

Simon Bransby

WHOLE PEOPLE FORUM

Thanks to Bill and Mogs, we meet at their home on a regular basis.

In 2007 some of us attended The Faith Net East Conference in Cambridge plenary session in the morning and workshops in the afternoon.

Three members attended the Urban Ministry Day in Bowthorpe. Paul M gave a talk on what The Whole People Forum is.

Paul and I have attended the Community Lunch Network, which gave us a chance to let people know about the Whole People Forum.

Four events for 2008 in February Late Great Christmas Do. This was a party for carers (a great success this was).

April 12th a workshop to be held in the church on Listening to Loss.

August we are waiting confirmation of a talk on panic and anxiety.

Goals for 2008 is to follow the aims of the Whole People Forum.

- Help those who care to work more closely together in caring.
- Promote the role of faith communities as partners in mental health care and recovery.

- Reduce the stigma attached to religion in mental health.
- Reduce the stigma attached to mental illness in faith communities.
- Promote the health of our community.

Annette Knowles

WEBSITE

The website has been a great success with people from outside the congregation getting information from it i.e. times of services and for those who have moved to keep up to date with what is happening and people using it for wedding enquiries etc.

Unfortunately the discussion forum seemed to be a problem with people hacking into it (not the most secure software) and as it was open to the world to put comments on it we decided to discontinue it.

At present due to the ill health of the administrator we have moved the site to a new company who will give us more flexibility over the site so those of us who will now administrate it are excited about new prospects for the future.

Brian Garner

BOOKSTALL

As the money in the bookstall account did not receive interest I have closed the account and given £352.89 to Richard to go into the church account, any further money will go straight to the church.

Please keep buying the cards.

Thank you.

Anne Rowe