



Reports from Committees and Organisations

Sutton St. James' Annual Parochial General Meeting

26th April 2015

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5. 11

We are now approaching the end of a period of Vacancy at St James which has seen the most significant Pastoral reorganisation in our Church history. The new Benefice of Sutton, Wincle, Wildboarclough and Bosley was made on 1st October last year. We are looking forward to welcoming Rev. Dr. John Harries and his family joining us in May. Sutton will continue as an independent Parish within the Benefice. The commitment of our parishioners to worship, and to the enduring ministry and outreach of our Church throughout the Vacancy period has been outstanding. We have been honoured and privileged to have served as your Churchwardens over this period. We thank you for your prayers and encouragement, and we would like to dedicate this Report to all of you.

Last year saw the obligatory Quinquennial structural inspection of the Church. We would like to thank Tony Greenham, Chairman of our Premises Committee, for all his work in connection with the inspection. No significant problems were discovered, and the Premises Committee is prioritising the necessary work to maintain the integrity of the Church building. As guardians of the moveable Church Furnishings, Fabric and Plate, we are pleased to report that these remain in good order. Last year's Gift Day Appeal was for new furniture for the Church Hall. Your generosity will enable us to improve the level of comfort offered to the many users of this facility.

The sale of the old Vicarage was completed last year, and construction of the new one is progressing well. We have had regular briefings with the Site Manager and the Diocesan Architect. The projected completion date is September 2015. Meanwhile John and his family will move into Wincle Vicarage in time for the Installation and Induction Service.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the absolute commitment of Rev. Vivien Gisby to St James. Vivien was appointed as Vicar of Weston St John, Runcorn in December. Her devotion and drive as our Interim Minister have now been translated to her new Parish, where she is launching several new initiatives. We are also grateful to our Reader Jenny Kendal, and continue to be blessed to have the help of Rev. Dr. Gary Bowness and Rev. David Harrison in maintaining our Services rota.

There have also been some encouraging developments in our Ministry and regular prayer life. The Family Activity ('Messy Church') afternoons have gone from strength to strength and the Thursday 'Praise and Play'

has been revived. A new fortnightly prayer group, led by Rachel Coulson, and kindly hosted by Barbara Lawrence, has started. Everyone is welcome. Details of all these activities appear on the weekly notices sheets.

Harvest time again saw us, in conjunction with Hollinhey, making a substantial donation on behalf of Parishioners to the Macclesfield Food Bank. We continue to collect items on a weekly basis and you are invited to place your donations of food in the box at the back of Church. The PCC has also maintained the practice of charitable giving and has responded generously to specific requests for grants from the 'Findlow' fund. Our efforts to support Christian Aid have continued and we are delighted that Heather Self has agreed to take a lead in reinvigorating the door to door appeal, which we were unable to maintain on our usual scale following Harry Armstrong's death. We are urgently seeking more volunteers to help with this important part of our mission and outreach work. Please contact us if you can help.

This year we would like to offer particular thanks to our Sides persons. They play an important role in welcoming congregations at all our Services. We would like to increase the number of people who perform this role. If you are able to help, either occasionally or on a regular basis, please speak with us. This year's Archdeacon's Visitation Service, at which Churchwardens and Sides persons will be sworn in, is on Wednesday 13th May at St. Peters, Prestbury.

Over the past year the PCC and the Trustees have continued to spend many hours deliberating on Parish business and on planning for the new Benefice. The attendant administration, in what has been another busy year, has been undertaken with unstinting devotion by Gwen Newman, our PCC Secretary. Gwen is standing down from this post at the APGM and we would like to thank her for her work over recent years.

We have lost several close friends and parishioners over recent months. Our thoughts and prayers are with those left bereaved. We remember in particular Fred Bailey, who as a former Lay Chairman of the PCC, was deeply devoted to the life of our Church.

As we enter into a new phase in the life of Sutton St. James, and of the wider Benefice, we are also hopefully entering into a period of spiritual renewal. The commitment of the many Parishioners, who have taken on additional roles throughout the Vacancy period, enables us to face the future with strength and confidence.

Audrey Fernyhough and John Evans

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the 2014 APCM, the PCC has met 7 times with an average attendance of 12 members. The number of meetings has reduced slightly from last year but still included discussions relating to the Interregnum, the new joint Benefice and other related matters. Following an invitation from the PCC in May 2013, those Trustees (i.e. Patrons) who are not on the PCC have continued to be present at the meetings in a non-voting capacity. The PCC also attended two meetings with PCCs from the three other Benefice parishes. The first one in June 2014 was called by The Archdeacon of Macclesfield following the announcement of Revd Verena Breed's move to Bicester which put the new Benefice in a vacancy situation. The second one in October 2014 was called to Transact Business Required by Section 11 of The Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 which involved agreeing various items relating to the vacancy documentation.

I am not able to continue as PCC Secretary and would like to say many thanks for all the help and guidance received from everyone and especially Tim Kendal and David Marriott for their support.

Gwen Newman

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHILD PROTECTION

The Committee members are: Jane Sinclair-Smith (chair), Mark Jacot (child protection coordinator) Gill Barber, Janet Mott, Liz Cusick, Richard Morris and Janet Bonsall. The Committee has representatives from the three main church groups that involve children and young people; the young church, bell ringers and choir. The Family Fun Afternoons are an exciting new venture that involves children and families and Mark Jacot has been liaising with Janet Parkinson the organiser of the afternoons to ensure compliance with our procedures.

The Committee has met just once during the year to undertake its annual review of the child protection policy and procedures. These were reviewed on 29th March 2015 and the view was that they remained fit for purpose, with the addition of a registration document that will support any ad hoc activity that involves children. Please contact Mark or Jane for a full set of our procedures and associated forms.

Mark Jacot as the child protection coordinator ensured compliance with the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and all those who require clearance have gone through the process.

Annual reviews of the three major groups (Choir, Young Church, and Bell Ringers) that work with children have been completed. No significant issues were raised through the reviews.

No issues or matters have been raised in respect of child protection to either the child protection coordinator, or other members of the Committee during the year. The safety and wellbeing of all children who are involved with the church continues to be a priority for us, contact details for anyone with any concerns can be found at the back of church.

Jane Sinclair-Smith

CHURCH HALL

It has been a relatively quiet year in the Church Hall. In the summer Hilditch Brothers painted the areas of wall and ceiling which had been damaged by water in the winter.

Sudden Strike continue to monitor the mice situation at regular intervals and to put down bait to eradicate the problem. Activity seems to have stopped downstairs at least.

In September we changed all the light bulbs for brighter ones, which was well received.

In October the Committee went to the Christian Resources Exhibition in Trafford Park to look at chairs for the hall. There were dozens! We chose two companies to lend us samples and left sheets of paper for people's comments as they tried them. The chairs have to be comfortable to sit through meetings, so they need padded seats, but must be serviceable/washable with so many children's activities in the hall each week. They have to be stackable and light enough for anyone to carry. So far, out of the six we have tried most comments have been negative – too upright, too high, too heavy, too awkward to carry. Just one has had more positive reaction from people. We are waiting for one more trial chair from Alpha Furniture and then a decision has to be made.

In January 2015 Cheshire Fire Authority conducted an inspection and the premises were passed as satisfactory.

Christine Smith

CHURCHYARD

From May until September the Churchyard Committee changes to a practical hands on role becoming 'Churchyard Working Party'. On Wednesday evenings carrying out many, projects keeping the grounds tidy and maintaining the overall looks.

The border to one side of the Garden of Remembrance had lost a few metres of hedging, probably due to weeds taking over. Bare root beech saplings have recently been planted.

Hopefully you have noticed new entrance gates, from the car park leading into the Churchyard, to be known as "*The Harry Armstrong Memorial Gates*". Most village people will remember Harry, who was a valued member of the Churchyard committee and working party.

Metal gates, fences, handrails and lamp-posts had their annual clean and paint.

Rhododendrons remain high on our agenda with several bushes pruned. If you look around you will see some are rather cut back, we have every confidence these will re-grow.

Maintenance of vertical memorials continues still. Response to our safety notices inviting families to take responsibility for the long term safety of their family's has noticeably slowed, several remaining with temporary supports, we really do hope these will be dealt with during this year.

A contract gardener visits on a regular basis to cut and trim the churchyard grass. We now prioritise areas, some cut short and removed, others cut and left.

The set-aside initiative in the area adjacent to the main church path, which allows wild flowers and grasses to establish themselves, remains a feature. Over the years it is interesting to watch the fruits of our labours. Anyone can contribute more wild flowers; patience is rewarded with success coming when you least expect it. *(Please consult before planting)*

The churchyard is home to many beautiful trees, many with Tree Preservation Orders in place. An Ash tree was badly storm damaged, about 6 months ago, this has almost gone, no doubt consumed by wood burning stoves around the Parish.

On Wednesday 1st April we had a pre- Easter tidy-up of left over Christmas wreaths, which had not already been removed from family graves. The big blue wheelie bin was filled to it's brim. Any help keeping grave plots clean and tidy would be greatly appreciated.

On Wednesday 6th of May, the Churchyard Working Party make a "hands on" start with routine and new projects. We are always happy to welcome people who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and help out on either a regular or just an occasional basis. Volunteers can contact me on 01260 252594, or, just come along on a Wednesday evening anytime between 7pm until 9pm, from 6th May onwards.

Graham Smith

MAGAZINE

The magazine continues to flourish—Thank you all for continuing to send in your articles and supporting the magazine.

We welcome your comments and ideas.

Janet Parkinson

PREMISES

The work planned to the Church Tower at last got underway and was completed during last summer. It

was undertaken by steeple jacks using rope access which avoided the need for expensive and intrusive scaffolding and was fascinating to observe! The scheme involved extensive re-pointing and repair to concealed areas but was principally aimed to devise a way to channel rainwater away from the stonework and the consequent damage to the interior and roof structure.

This arose largely from the original design of the tower. During the course of the work the two chimney flues in the tower fabric were found from the long disused fireplace in what was the original vestry (now the ringing chamber) and original heating boiler and additional work was undertaken to them.

Whilst supervising this work the Architect undertook the outstanding Quinquennial Inspection of the Church and his Report was eventually received in January. Its summary was that the Church and Churchyard were considered to be in good condition and well maintained but that a building of this age and construction will require continuing maintenance particularly to the exterior stonework. Quite a list of recommendations ensued and the Committee has submitted a report to the PCC with a suggested planned programme of work.

To the Hall, the west side decorative roof barge board has been replaced in readiness for external repainting which is programmed for this Spring.

Tony Greenham

OTHER GROUPS

BELL RINGERS

We rang for every Sunday morning service this year. We also ring for Evensong whenever we are able. We rang for all weddings for which bells were requested and have welcomed a few visiting bands. We endeavour to generate interest in the bells amongst the wider community; Sarah talked about the bells during the Church Family Fun event in late autumn and then at January's event two ringers worked together to give 5 youngsters a taste of ringing. We welcome anyone interested in the bells and/or in learning to ring to be in contact. We held our AGM in March; thanks to Tim Kendal who chaired it.

Socially, we enjoyed our usual Holy Week meal, we had a 'Ding and Dine' joined by the wider ringing family contingent in January and we also met for Christmas drinks and nibbles.

We have rung 7 Quarter peals and between those marked 2 wedding anniversaries, two big birthdays, the passing of two ex-ringers of this tower, Harvest Sunday and, on the anniversary of the start of WW1, in memory of those who lost their lives in war. We also arranged for the bells to ring on the date before a

parishioner's 90th birthday and we rang before the funeral of Fred Bailey.

As we move forward to life in the new benefice, we look forward to forging new links with the Bosley ringers, the only other church in the benefice with bells. I have been discussing ideas with Bill, the Tower captain, about our joint ringing for the Induction Service.

Two ringers have decided to ring elsewhere; we thank them for their enthusiasm and hard work for the different roles they have had at Sutton. We have also been delighted to welcome back two ex-ringers to our regular band.

Thanks go to Peter Newman, a most diligent Treasurer and Electronic- diary keeper. Tony stepped forward to fill the steeple-keeper role; we thank him for his diligence and commitment to one of the grubbier jobs.

I would like to thank all the ringers for their commitment. Please remember us in prayer occasionally, as we strive to keep the tradition of calling people to church, reminding all in the community of God's presence.

Sarah Jacot, Tower Captain

CHOIR

Like the rest of the Parish, the Choir has been marking time over the last two years while we await the arrival of our new Vicar. Although we haven't gained any new members we haven't lost any either and our numbers remain stable at 20 although they aren't there at every service. In addition there are about six Friends of Sutton St James' Choir whom we can call on when necessary. A very fortunate position to be in.

Our stalwart organist John Campbell - Kelly continues to delight as does Martin Potter who relieves John from time to time. Both are very, very much appreciated.

The Easter and Harvest services went well. Christmas had a slightly different start as we had a Carol Party in the Church Hall for the first time, for anyone in the Parish to come and sing carols. Around 30 came and we had extremely good refreshments too! Singing round the Christmas trees was better supported than 2013 as was our visit to Macclesfield Town Centre. The Church was full to capacity for the Carol Service as well.

At our Choir AGM in January, our decisions for the future were varied. We decided to welcome the Rev. Dr. John Harries by spring cleaning the vestry after Easter and before May 11th!!! This will include the laying of a new, rather more serviceable carpet to be paid for out of Choir funds. We have already introduced a morning Songs of Praise to learn some new hymns. At the beginning of May we will be going over to Vivien's church, St John's Weston, to give her support to start a new Choir as there hasn't been one for quite a few years and she really misses our support.

We are also in contact with Janet Mott at Hollinhey to arrange to lead an assembly there, so the children know a bit more about us and what we do.

All in all, every one of us remains loyal, hard-working and to leading Sutton St. James' services. We would love to welcome others to join us.

Sandra Moss

ECUMENICAL PRAYER GROUP

Continues to meet once a month rotating between St James, Langley Methodist Church and St Edwards Roman Catholic Church. Although a small group it is a chance to meet and share our concerns in prayer and develop understanding and friendship.

Janet Parkinson

HANDBELLS

The long promised inventory of the handbells took place last year as part of the NADFAS recording of all the furnishings and features of St James and other churches in the deanery, which should form a useful record for the future. We replaced another pair of handles last year and hope to complete the exercise this year.

As usual our busy time is the lead up to Christmas, which started at Rossendale with a blustery ring at the Oakwood Christmas market, and we had fun trying to stop our 'music' from blowing away. Although we collect for the East Cheshire Hospice mainly round the hostleries, we also visit several care homes hopefully bringing some pleasure to the residents with our carols. It is a good opportunity to visit places where our former parishioners reside, and we were pleased to see Barbara Naylor, Don and Daphne Oldfield and Beryl Wilcocks and also Peter Newman's mother. With the threat of closure, we hope it wasn't the last visit to Hollins View, as so many from Sutton have benefited with respite there over the years. We had a very good ring at Mount Hall, which was well received, had a generous collection after the Mydel concert and made several invited calls to the Macclesfield Garden Centre. In all we collected £1,013 for the ECH (our highest total) and extend our thanks to all who contributed and accommodated us. My special thanks goes to the dedicated team of ringers.

Howard Reeves

HOBNOB

The dictionary definition of Hobnob is to meet together informally and that is what we do fortnightly on Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm.

During the past year we have had our usual mix of talks, slide shows, music and home grown entertainment. We had three days out including what seems to have become an annual trip to Llandudno.

Happily our numbers have increased recently and anyone wishing to join us can be assured of a warm welcome.

Many thanks to all who support us so regularly as we look forward to another year of hobnobbing.

Greta Bailey

KNIT AND NATTER

Continues to flourish at The Church House, twice a month on Monday afternoons. As well as nattering, over the last few months we have sent many baby blankets, baby jumpers and hats to Uganda. Blankets from squares to Cradle Concern and to Salvation Army in Macclesfield.

Other children's knitwear has gone to foster families in the Bolton Area via a contact we have there.

Some of our members always have to be making something and doing something practical to help.

Janet Parkinson and Janet Bonsall

MACCLESFIELD DEANERY SYNOD REVIEW 2014-2015

Members and visitors from all our parishes have met 4 times in the last year with excellent speakers addressing a wide range of subjects. Hospitality from our host parishes has preceded all these meetings with a warm welcome for which we are most grateful. Each meeting has benefited from opening worship in the style of the host parish and we have all learned something new from this. The process of pastoral reorganization has led in the period under review to the creation of 3 new Joint Benefices. St. John the Evangelist, Macclesfield and St. Thomas Henbury have united, with Revd. Dr. Tim Robinson as incumbent with his wife Revd. Norma Robinson as Associate Minister. Revd. Dr. John Harries will be inducted and installed on 11th May as incumbent of the Joint Benefice of Sutton with Wincle, Wildboarclough and Bosley. Gawsworth and North Rode are united with Rt. Revd. William Pwaisiho as their incumbent. Revd. Canon Veronica Hydon was commissioned as our new Rural Dean on 18th Sept.

May 14th, St. Mary the Virgin, Bosley

30 members from 14 parishes plus 5 visitors, gathered to celebrate Deanery Eucharist with celebrant Revd. Canon Peter Howell-Jones, Vice-Dean of Chester cathedral, before moving to Bosley CofE School for the Synod meeting. We welcomed 8 newly elected members to Synod. All parishes had made a welcome, timely response to the call for a levy and the treasurer reported a balance of almost £2,000 in hand. The Vice-Dean gave a lively presentation about the 2½ years he has been at the cathedral. A particularly relevant innovation has been the introduction of a programme of Deanery days welcoming Deanery members to "Their" cathedral. Perhaps Macclesfield Deanery might consider this opportunity?

Sep 18th St. Oswald's Bollington

Synod saw the commissioning of Revd. Canon Veronica Hydon as our new Rural Dean. Around a hundred people from churches and chapels of all denominations around the area were joined by civic representatives to celebrate this service led by Rt. Revd. Dr. Peter Forster, Bishop of Chester with Ven. Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

Nov 18th, Holy Trinity Hurdsfield

Just 23 members from 12 parishes came together to hear Revd. Jenny Mayo-Lythell –Transforming Lives Together (TLT) Development Officer, and Mrs. Jane Knight – Diocesan Head of Counselling services. Jenny and Jane maintained the high standard of speakers and presentations that we have had at Synod meetings. First Jenny encouraged us with stories of how parishes are responding to the challenges from TLT by working together with other churches and organisations in their communities. Jane told us how her team of 14 counsellors around the diocese provide a service with mental health for both clergy and church members.

Feb 3rd All Saints, Macclesfield

27 members and 2 visitors heard Pip Worswick – Head Teacher at Wincle CofE School and Deanery representative on the Diocesan Board of Education, and Andrea Fitton – Youth Minister with St. Peter's Prestbury working from Upton Priory, tell us about their work with children and young people. Two casual vacancies arising in the House of Clergy on Diocesan Synod were filled and notice was given that elections to the new Diocesan Synod will take place at the next Deanery Synod at the end of April. The retirement of the Deanery Synod secretary following the April Synod was announced.

The full text for all Deanery meetings and presentations is available from your parishes Deanery representatives. All meetings are Open meetings and visitors are very welcome.

A Deanery Choral Evensong, will be held at St. Michael's Macclesfield on Sat 26th Sept 2015 at 5:30pm.

The next Deanery Synod will be on Wed April 29th at St. Thomas Church Hall Henbury at 7:30pm for 7:45, speaker Revd. Canon EWL (Taffy) Davies.

David Marriott

QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER

A new Quiet Time of Reflection and Prayer started in February meeting at Barbara Lawrence's home on first and third Tuesdays in the month. This is a refreshing informal gathering encouraging us to think and reflect on personal, community and world issues, share them and bring them to Jesus in prayer.

Janet Parkinson

1ST SUTTON (ST JAMES) SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP (Incorporating MAORI EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT)

2014-2015 has proved to be yet another eventful year for our Scout & Guide Group here in Sutton. Our 7 Sections provide an exciting, structured programme of progressive activities for over 160 young people between the ages of five and eighteen, with waiting lists for each of the younger Sections.

Without doubt the highlight of the year for many was *Chamboree 2014*, Cheshire's international jamboree held every 4 years. Scouts, Guides and Explorer Scouts from Sutton took part in the 8 day event, camping at the County Showground, Tabley. The week was packed with exciting and challenging activities at Tabley and at Tatton Water Activities Centre, plus an outing to Liverpool, mixing with Guides and Scouts from as far afield as Japan, India and Israel. In addition the Cub Scouts were able to camp for the first weekend when a special programme of activities was laid on for them. We were also able to return the hospitality extended to the Scout Troop at the Denmark International Jamboree two years ago. The Scouts (and Guides) were delighted to welcome the Danish Scout Troop who hosted us in Denmark to camp with us at Tabley, followed by a brief stay in Sutton after *Chamboree*.

All Sections have continued to provide occasional weekend activities in addition to regular weekly meetings. District, Division and County events have been well supported, ranging from the District Carol Service to the Macc Hike and the Cheshire Hike. Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Explorer Scouts have each held a number of camps and residential weekends, which invariably prove very popular, and with the Maori Explorers continuing their work towards Duke of Edinburgh's Awards..

September saw the 30th Group Weekend at Barnswood. This year the theme of Superheroes was carried over from *Chamboree*. As ever the weekend proved a great success, with never a dull moment. The Superhero activities kept everyone busy throughout, with Saturday evening capped off by a wonderful campfire led by Geoff Smith. What's more, the catering team ensured everyone was not just well fed, but full to bursting point!

The Group was pleased to continue the regular series of Parade Services at St James. These included the Birthday Service in May, the Harvest Parade in October and the Remembrance Parade in November. We were particularly pleased to have a band for the Harvest Parade once more, with our thanks going to Bollington Youth Band.

The Group depends on our dedicated team of brilliant Leaders. Week in, week out they continue to devise

and run programmes that inspire our young people, and help them to journey through the progressive training schemes. It often proves difficult to recruit new Leaders, but once they join us they invariably become enthused and find that Guide and Scout Leaders enjoy themselves much more than they ever imagined. This was demonstrated in the autumn when we were unable to recruit a new Scout Leader and were forced to close the Scout Troop for several months. After much thought Ian Dix agreed to change over from Beaver Scout Leader to Scout Leader, with the result we have been able to recruit a strong team of assistants to help him. The Troop reopened in late January and is gradually rebuilding its strength.

The Group is proud that Victoria Cusick has been selected as an Assistant Unit Leader for one of the Cheshire Units at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan this coming summer. She has been working very hard for some months now helping to prepare the Unit to represent Cheshire within the UK Contingent and to make the most of the wonderful experience they are about to enjoy.

In addition to the Leader team there is a large and enthusiastic team of helpers, including the Executive Committee, the Fun(d)raisers, Quartermaster, cleaning team and the "R" Team who maintain the headquarters and grounds. We are extremely grateful to all. Their hard work ensures that the Group remains financially solvent, and that we are able to make the best use of our superb headquarters. The Fun(d)raisers also enhance the social life of the village with a variety of entertaining events, including the recent highly successful *Sutton On Stage*. We are also indebted to Purvies Productions for their excellent plays, which both entertain us and raise funds for the Group.

A problem is occurring at Group level. Phil Cusick retired as Group Scout Leader at the Group AGM last May. We are still looking for someone to take on this role. This will be compounded this May, when I am retiring as AGSL, and Mark Simpson, our fantastic Chairman will not be standing for re-election. Mark, Phil and myself will still be around to assist and advise when required, but the time has come to pass these roles down the generations. All we need is the right people!

Finally, I would once again thank everyone who works so hard to support our Group, and most of all our marvellous Leader Team. Thank you, everyone. You make 1st Sutton and Maori Explorers a wonderful example of fine Guiding and Scouting!

John Pearson
Assistant Group Scout Leader

YOUNG CHURCH

In response to requests from the congregation, our members and the PCC the Young Church now holds "Family Circle" every Sunday.

Each week we meet in church at 10 30am, joining the service until after the gradual hymn, to which the children can play along on the percussion instruments. Families then gather in the church hall for our time together.

There are about 18 children and their families on our register and we always welcome new members and visitors.

During our time together we have a story and prayers, then respond to the story with art & craft activities, games and singing, sometimes we bake biscuits or cakes! We come back together for a snack time, birthdays and news time. The children always have some news to share with us and their friends!

This pattern continues to suit the needs of our members of all ages.

We currently have 6 leaders who work in the Young Church. Many, many thanks for their time, commitment and hard work.

In May we held a coffee morning and cake stall and as a result we were able to send a good donation to Christian Aid.

The Young Church celebrates the regular festivals in the church year, Lent, Palm Sunday Easter, Rogation Tide, Pentecost, St. James Day, Harvest festival, Advent and Christmas.

In December our contribution to the Christmas worship of our church was entitled "Silent Night". This narration interspersed the traditional story of Jesus birth, with the re-telling of the First World One tale of truce, between the English and German troops, in the trenches on Christmas Eve, in 1914. Some members of our Young Church families helped with the narration of this story in the service, and a number of other people helped with the technology, so words and images could be on the over-head screen. I must thank them all very much. The narration was very much appreciated by the entire congregation and was a very moving way to start our Christmas.

We must give our thanks to John & Sandra too, who are always very supportive with all we do at Young Church.

We held two jumble sales during the last year. From the money raised we are able to keep our Young Church completely self financing. We buy new books and resources for our meetings and events, finance special events and give each of our children a gift of a book once a year. We sponsor 2 children through World Vision. The jumble sale is a wonderful time of

fellowship and now we have a contact with Andrew Davies and the Wythenshawe Trust nothing is wasted. He takes everything that is left and is able to recycle it to the needy in or around Manchester or he takes it to hospitals and orphanages around the world, helping sick and poor children and families.

On Good Friday we led a special family activity morning, and on Easter Day we celebrated with activities and Easter eggs in Young Church.

Gill Barber