

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
PORINGLAND**

**Reports Booklet
2010**

for the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

at

Poringland Village Hall

**22nd April 2010
at 7.30pm**

AGM Reports Booklet 2010

List of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Chairman's Report..... | 2 |
| After Alpha house group..... | 3 |
| Albion House/Cresta Lodge..... | 4 |
| Alternative Service..... | 5 |
| All Saints Church Fabric..... | 5 |
| Alpha..... | 6 |
| Benefice Website..... | 7 |
| Churches Together in Poringland and Framingham Earl..... | 7 |
| Contact Magazine..... | 8 |
| Deanery Synod..... | 9 |
| Drop In For Prayer..... | 11 |
| Edward Bear..... | 12 |
| Electoral Roll..... | 13 |
| Flower Team..... | 13 |
| Fund Raising..... | 13 |
| Holiday Club..... | 13 |
| Men's Breakfast..... | 14 |
| Ministry Team..... | 15 |
| Music at All Saints'..... | 15 |
| Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride..... | 15 |
| Octagon Wives..... | 16 |
| OLM Progress..... | 16 |
| Open to God Home Group..... | 17 |
| PCC Secretary's Report..... | 17 |
| Planned Giving..... | 18 |
| Poringland Village Hall..... | 18 |
| Prayer Meeting/Diary..... | 19 |
| The 'Meeting Place' Coffee Stop..... | 20 |
| Visiting Team..... | 21 |
| Wednesday Communion..... | 21 |
| Wednesday Group..... | 22 |
| Wednesday House Group..... | 22 |
| Youth Work..... | 22 |

Chairman's Report

In these last 12 months I have particularly been aware of various people I have bumped into and stopped to talk to as I have gone about the community or as I am popping into and out of church. These are people who are quietly getting on with the ministry God has given them. In many cases, they would probably not consider or even feel comfortable with the label that what they are doing is in any way associated with ministry or service; and just like the righteous who are rewarded in Jesus parable (Matthew 25:37-40) they say, "But Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" And the Lord replies to them, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." And likewise these various people are often going about their works of service unnoticed and alone. There is also a great diversity of service and ministry. Here are just some of them I have both personally and sometimes accidentally come across: giving lifts, counting money, sorting out PC software, painting, visiting, typing, delivering cards or envelopes or Contact magazine, shopping for a neighbour, cleaning the church, stapling, photocopying, polishing, freshening flower arrangements, praying, playing or singing, washing up, tidying things away, learning lines and rehearsing, making banners, making soup, collecting hand-towels or altar linen to be washed, buying / serving tea and coffee, tidying up the notice board, picking up litter, etc, etc. My memory fails otherwise the list could go on. And that doesn't include all those I haven't come across because I wasn't in the right place at the right time. I want to thank all of you for your commitment and caring about your duties to the Lord, for your practical obedience in serving Him – and for your lack of desire for reward or recognition. Be encouraged, as we see in the parable, it is God who sees all our acts for him, and who greatly blesses you. In ALL these things you are playing your part in reaching out and sharing the Gospel with others – for you are servants ministering on behalf of Jesus Christ on behalf of the church. Thank you.

I want to particularly thank the members of the standing committee, Barry, Graham, Debbie, Caroline, Bill and Mark for all their support and hard work. I would also like to thank the committed group who serve on the PCC for all your contributions in ensuring the administrative and legal side of church life is carried out so efficiently. I also want to express my particular gratitude to all those who have shared during this year in the preaching and teaching ministry, namely Bob, Caroline, Debbie, Jill and Julian. God has blessed us with gifted people and I am convinced he is honing and preparing all of you to be involved even more so in wider ministries in the future. Our special prayers are with Debbie as she ends her training which leads to her ordination later this year; and to Nik who is at the beginning of the ordination journey.

Finally, since our last annual meeting we are very excited to share (also mentioned in the Poringland Village Hall Report in this booklet) that the vision is firming up for the new development and rebuilding of Poringland Village Hall to become All Saints Centre. The PCC has seen the latest architect's draft plans and we are now at the stage of consulting with South Norfolk Planning Officers. We need positive indications from them before we can move forward. Please continue to pray earnestly that the vision God has given us will be realised and will not be thwarted by any man-made agendas or barriers. We would not have got this far without the prayers and support of God's faithful people. Once this stage is passed we then intend to consult with local residents to listen carefully to their comments, and then the wider public in order to garner their support. But through all these processes please continue to pray, as it says in the book of James (James 5:16): "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." May God bless you all abundantly, as we strive together to build up his kingdom in our community.

Robert Parsonage

After Alpha house group

This year when all attend we have been six in number. We started the year running as previous years as an informal group, meeting

every first and third Mondays of the month at 8pm, at 50, Rectory Lane. Meeting to talk, listen and pray for each other, and any others that we were aware of.

During the year Bob Linton joined our group and has been valuable with his teaching and Reader ministry. As a result the group now meets at Bob's on the first Monday of the month, with a more formal Bible study format, whilst the meeting on the third remains as it always used to, with no planned structure but awaiting what the Lord has in store for us. We continue to pray that numbers increase and all will enjoy these meetings. We thank the Lord for Bob and his commitment and service which has expanded this ministry greatly.

If either of these formats appeal to you then please come along. For further information please contact us on 01508 494641.

Andy & Debbie Driver

Albion House/Cresta Lodge

Services at Albion House and Cresta Lodge normally take place on the second Wednesday of every month at 10am and 11am respectively. At Albion House we hold a communion service with from 8 to 15 communicants, mostly from Albion House but all are encouraged and very welcome to attend. My special thanks to Rosemary, Jenny and Dolly for their practical support and preparation for this service. The morning worship at Cresta Lodge attracts numbers between 20 to 30 and is much appreciated by both residents and staff as we enjoy a special time together in God's presence. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jean Flowerdew as the pianist and also to Andy, Debbie, Denise and Paul for their regular support and participation in both these services. Anyone else able to offer their help would be much appreciated. The idea of holding a regular communion service in the village hall has also been considered but at the moment the people who may benefit from such a service are receiving home communions.

Robert Parsonage

Alternative Service

As this is no longer NEW we decided this year to change the service's name to the alternative service. It has been a time of great change with a new format being tried with all things being very much in blocks. This has been a time when duties have changed. Thanks go to those on the team as they have embraced a new way of working. Although numbers have not grown significantly they have not dropped either. Our focus is now on how we bring growth in numbers and therefore grow God's kingdom. We hope that many that do not come to church and find the liturgy and set movement in our traditional services daunting will be able to worship God through this service. As a church I believe that we are truly blessed as we offer so many different styles of worship each of which will appeal to different people.

Debbie Driver

All Saints Church Fabric

Around the time of the last annual report we received the visitation of the Archdeacon who indicated that we must have a 'Church Log Book' within which all work etc, should be recorded. This has been provided, is kept in the vestry and available for inspection. In August 2009 the churchyard was tidied and cleared by a series of community service working parties introduced and arranged by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. They had been impressed by the number of rare species of flora we have growing in the grass and around the trees. These are described on a map which is displayed in the Octagon.

We are grateful for the help of Alan Hall of Framingham Earl, and members of the congregation who assisted in the removal of the waste to the local tip.

In September, M.C. Lead Glaziers did an inspection of the stained glass and other windows in both the nave and chancel. In respect of the latter they reported as follows,

"All four windows are deteriorating and glass loss has occurred, of which some is mediaeval painted. The protection of this glass is of high priority and will require intervention at the earliest financially

convenient time. There are a number of options in this regard and we can advise.”

The standing committee have discussed this issue and until such time as money is available we will monitor it.

At the same time the damage to the west tower window was examined and after some delay the work has now been completed, the main cost being covered by insurance.

The wooden shed from outside the Octagon, formerly owned by the Toddler Group, was moved to the P.V.H. for the use of our Edward Bear organisers.

A number of repair and maintenance issues set out in the Quinquennial Report of 2008 are ongoing and as time and cost dictate will be completed.

Our campaign against the Bixley Church planning application to rebuild that ran throughout the autumn of 2009, resulted in it being withdrawn by Bishop Graham.

This has meant that we may at some time in the near future have to decide on where and how we accommodate the 4 memorials taken from the Bixley ruins.

Our initial offer was to house them and probably fix to the rear wall of the nave at a high level. However, we are hoping there may be an alternative option offered from the diocese and we await the Archdeacon’s report.

Once again a word of thanks to Russell Phipps and many of you who volunteer to help when asked.

Barry Catchpole

Alpha

We are now in the fifth year of running Alpha and we thank those who have helped in the background.

Although six guests attended the Introductory Supper in September, we actually had eight at the initial session, which dropped down to usually five and for the last sessions withered to three or four.

This year’s Alpha Away Day was run at our house on a Sunday afternoon and evening, as people were not available on the Saturday for Ditchingham and there was a zero uptake for a quiet

day. Five of us attended the Away Day and it followed the normal format of DVD sessions, worship and food.

There will be a course running, as normal, in September, so if you wish to attend or know anyone who would be interested in attending, then please contact us. Both Debbie and I really enjoy running Alpha, however, we feel it is right for us to stand down from leading it at this point in time. If you think this is something for you or you know someone else who would like to take this on then please contact Robert.

Andy & Debbie Driver

Benefice Website

The new website has been up and running for a year now. It still remains an up-to-date source of information on events in the benefice. The information is updated weekly and monthly, and just to remind people the Pew Sheet is available to download, so that at least if people cannot get to our services they can keep up with the news this way. A shortage of time has prevented us from further progression at the moment.

If anybody has any ideas for inclusion please contact either Elaine Chapman or Andy Driver.

Elaine Chapman & Andy Driver

Churches Together in Poringland and Framingham Earl

The Churches have continued to work together. The monthly evening service (4th Sunday) continues, mainly with the same faces, as we rotate round the four Churches. We held a special service this year at the Roman Catholic Church, for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Women's World Day of Prayer. The Lent home groups continue, this year all using the York course, as did also the Wednesday Lent meditation/shared lunches, and the Passover Meal. The Good Friday procession of witness and the Christmas Carols at Budgens were well attended

which does focus visually on our unity in the village on these important dates.

The committee of Church leaders and lay representatives continue to meet every three months for planning, feedback, finances and prayer, and Johnny our youth worker, supported by CTOG, has also been able to attend on most occasions, (See his Youth Report). Our bank balance, mainly concerned with Johnny's work, is thankfully good at the present time. We have had several grants given from various sources for which we are very grateful. This money raising involves much hard work, particularly for Church leaders and Julian our treasurer.

Susan Eldridge resigned as secretary this year, Susan Seaward taking her place. There are two representatives from each Church on the committee.

We are very grateful for Julian's hard work as Treasurer.

The Barn Dance in the autumn was very successful, Dave Rimmer has agreed to be the caller again this year the date for this is November 13th in the Community Centre.

We had a session on "Growing Together – our Ecumenism". The first one in October at the Roman Catholic Church, led by Father Mark, was well attended. A further one is arranged for Wednesday May 19th at the Methodist Church, with contributions from the Methodist and Anglican Churches.

For Pentecost this year we are holding a 'Birthday Party' in the Village Hall, preceded by a sponsored sing-a-long in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust. We hope it will be well supported.

Jenny Oates

Contact Magazine

It is just over a year since the amount of non-advert content of the magazine was increased. I am pleased to report that the inclusion of a crossword and some interesting articles each month has been well received by readers.

The recession had some affect on Contact during 2009 and the number of copies produced each month has fallen slightly from 850 to 810. It was decided to keep the cost of advertising in 2010 the same as 2009. However, 11 advertisers opted not to renew

and, once again, there were only just enough names on the waiting list to fill the space created.

I would like to thank very much the large group of volunteers, too numerous to mention individually, who make up the Contact team. However, special thanks to Sean Ivers our Editor who has managed to fit in his work on Contact around a full time job and a young family. Grateful thanks also to those deliverers who had to give up during 2009 and to the people who have come forward to take their places. As I have said before, the income generated by Contact is a major factor in the work of All Saints.

We still need more people to come onto the reserve list to help with collation in order to cover for absence. Also, we are particularly looking for people who would be willing to be trained in using the printer/copier so that a rota can be drawn up for Contact printing. Please speak to Denise Knight if you feel you could offer your services or would like to know more about what is involved.

Arthur Peters

Deanery Synod

During 2009, your All Saints representatives Rev'd. Robert, Rodney and Denise attended all three meetings of the Loddon Rural Deanery Synod at St Johns Chapel Loddon. The meetings were held on the 10th March, 3rd June and the 1st October 2009.

Meeting of the 10th March

Rev'd Nigel Evans our Rural Dean welcomed everyone to the refurbished Chapel; Rev'd Nick Will opened the meeting with Celtic Prayer and was accompanied by Gillian Martin on the Piano. Rt. Rev'd Tony Footitt from the environmental department of the Church of England was the main speaker for the evening, he shared with us a number of interesting environmental statistics whilst encouraging us to think GREEN and highlighted two initiatives the 1st being the 28th March which is Earth Hour when we should switch everything off between 2000 Hrs and 2100 Hrs and the 2nd initiative was to use Green Energy supplied by Ecotricity who are specialists of wind energy. The Bishop

distributed copies of the Diocesan Environment Policy additional copies are available from his office.

Rev'd. Wendy Shaw gave an update on the Burning Bush project, work has started and she is hopeful that it will be opened early autumn.

Meeting of the 3rd June

Rev'd Robert Parsonage chaired the meeting, as our Rural Dean Rev'd Nigel Evans was on a sabbatical for three months to research into 'Fresh Expressions' and discover what other churches are doing within their parishes. The main speaker for the evening was the Director of 'Call to Prayer' Jill Gower and her friend Lorie Lain-Rogers also from 'Call to Prayer' which offers teaching of the following subjects, the Bride of Christ, The Seven Feasts, The Song of Songs and The Tabernacle plus many more. The Call to Prayer was started in 2000 at Living Waters and circulated around Norfolk.

The 'Call to Prayer' team have been very busy with the Tabernacle project at Kirby Bedon House where Jill has been leading tours of the tabernacle, which is a living movement experience through the different stages, that include 'The Throne of Grace', 'Table of Show bread' 'The Menorah' and 'The Altar of Incense' the Clergy and Lay members thoroughly recommend a visit and Jill can be contacted on 01508 491770 or visit www.call2prayer.co.uk for future availability of the Tabernacle.

Meeting of the 1st October

Rev'd Nigel Evans introduced our speakers Jaquie Hill, Johnny Grimwood and Sarah. Who shared with us what was happening with the youth within the Deanery. Johnny began giving us an insight into his work in Poringland with Youth for Christ. This happened not just in youth clubs, but also in Schools with lunchtime clubs and camps during the school holidays. We saw numerous slides with the children all looking as though they enjoyed every moment. He does not work on his own, but has a team of volunteers that are greatly appreciated and works along side Jaquie and Sarah. Jaquie works with the pre teens, also the 11 plus ones that are just going into High School and feeling very thrilled, helping out with the R.E. Lessons and assemblies She

also organises every year, a bible explore camp that takes 10-11 year olds to Horsestead. Sarah works part time in Loddon and has been with Youth for Christ us for just over a year and can see a great difference in the Children already, always trying to keep them occupied and off the streets. Evidently, she is known for her hot dogs. Nigel thanked them all for their hard work, feeling greatly encouraged by all the work being done with the young within the Deanery. Next year (2010) the Synod meetings are on the 16th March, 2nd June and the 30th September.

Rodney Pearce

Drop In For Prayer

I first read Pete Greig's book, "Red Moon Rising" last year, which details the conception and growth of 24/7 prayer houses across the world. These prayer houses are there to support, by praying, the local community, as well as the wider area. I also went to hear Pete speak at St Luke's, Aylsham Road, as he is now responsible for prayer at Holy Trinity Brompton, with respect to Alpha. Having read the book and after hearing Pete speak, I felt that there was a need for prayer for our community and felt we should start a 24/7 prayer house. Practically I knew this was impossible but felt led by God to open up the Church every Wednesday evening from 6pm to 10pm for a prayer meeting. I started this in July last year. This is a meeting to which anyone can come to for as long as they want. To have a chat, to pray or have a chat with our Lord or to receive prayer. People have dropped in for prayer and to pray about personal issues, and issues on a list of current prayer items I have compiled.

So I would encourage you all to come along and join me to pray for our community.

Andy Driver

Edward Bear

We continue to enjoy increased membership as new families join us, mainly through recommendation from existing ones and through 'natural' growth as existing families expand.

Despite the forced cancellations of groups at the end of last year due to Rachel's bereavement, families have all returned and have been very supportive. It was unfortunate that this included the thanksgiving service that we started very successfully last year but it will be held this November to reunite families old and new and encourage the wider families to attend and also the church family. We look forward to the installation of our new shed as the old one now leaks badly due to being damaged further through sabotage when it had been overturned for a second time. Thankfully no toys or equipment have been damaged but the water does get in and this creates work as things have to be washed prior to each use. The coffee time is still enabled by Dolly and Nell but we would appreciate another person to join the kitchen team as both Dolly and Nell have other pressures which sometimes prevent them being able to attend. Mary continues to assist in the main group session and with coffees. As you read this and feel the Lord prompting you in this area, please do not hesitate to contact Rachel, Janet or Robert!

The vision is still for this group to become a term-time weekly baby/toddler group incorporating the monthly service. We still await God's timing and direction on this.

We give thanks for the links we have with so many families in our community through Edward Bear as they progress to Kids Club and the Holiday Club. May the Lord be praised when we will see young people in ministry who have graduated through our various youth ministries as we look back and remember them sitting on the floor, cuddling a teddy bear and joining in songs about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

With thanks for all your continued support, prayer and otherwise.

Rachel, Janet and Edward

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll has 73 members at present. Kathleen Runnacles sadly died recently reducing the roll by 1 since April 2009.

Denise Knight

Flower Team

We are blessed with having 18 members in our flower arranging team whose help is so much appreciated. They give tirelessly of their time and talents to make sure that the church always looks colourful and welcoming, and especially so at festival times.

Our grateful thanks to them all.

Janet Smith

Fund Raising

We have had two 'fund raising' events during the year. In June we held a Book Sale/Coffee Morning and raised the sum of £242.

Then on 7th November we arranged the first ever Poringland Rail Show which was supported by local members of the Norfolk Railway Society. Much fun was had by all those who exhibited as well as by those who came to see the show. A profit of £470 was made and donated to All Saints' Fabric Fund.

Both these events involved a lot of valuable team work and also provided an excellent opportunity to meet with and welcome people from outside the church.

Janet Smith

Holiday Club

The 2009 Holiday Club was based on God's great plan for salvation and was entitled "Showstoppers", it certainly brought out the showbiz aspirations of a number of us! The signature tune was enjoyed by all and was accompanied daily by a sea of waving boater hats!

As seems to be a common theme, we were once more full to capacity – eighty children having a great time over the four days. The children were assisted once more with a great bunch of helpers and it's good to see a number of former participants coming back to help. Without the dedication of the volunteers who turn up regularly to help at Holiday Club it simply would not run, so many thanks must go to them for their commitment. The final day saw the traditional "Sausage Sizzle" which once more was so well attended extra rations had to be brought in. Finally, thanks must go to Mrs Ivatt for use of the school throughout the week as we would not have been so successful in another environment.

Dianne Rivers

Men's Breakfast

We are now into our seventh year of running the Men's Breakfast and to date we have held sixteen sessions.

Since the last report we have held three Men's Breakfasts, **June – John Howe**, a local Methodist Steward, Preacher and Retired Police Officer.

October – Adrian Miller, a former missionary worker in a UK healing centre, now an Anglican Team Vicar in the Tas Valley Benefice

February this year – Steve Carter, a retired Head Teacher who is also a Reader in the Venta Group of churches and now works as an education consultant.

These have again been well attended with 34 present on average, covering a cross section of the local community.

The speakers coming from differing backgrounds gave varied testimonies as to how they had met Jesus. They also talked about how this had affected their lives and how Jesus had always been there for them during their Christian journey.

Many thanks go to Russell for leading the cooking and to Paul for producing the cards. Also a big thank you for those helping to set up in the early hours of a Saturday morning and for those that help with the clearing up afterwards.

Andy Driver

Ministry Team

The ministry team has been formed for nearly three years. It has not met regularly except to organise the fifth Sunday Benefice services. In September however, it formed the group that I gave a presentation on mission to. It was a good evening and a lively discussion ensued at the end. This was part of the OLM course and Rev'd Dr Sue Woan and Rev'd Charles Read attended to mark the presentation.

Debbie Driver

Music at All Saints'

We are fortunate to have three organists/keyboard players now who regularly play for morning services, weddings and funerals – they are David Keefe, myself and more recently Marion Williams who we are very pleased to welcome. We also have the occasional help from Anthony Florance.

Our worship is also led by Peter LeFevre and Rachel Thrussell on guitars and assisted by 6 singing members of the Worship Group – Arthur Peters, Roy and Mavis Glenn, Elaine Evans, Rodney Pearce and Susan McAvoy. We meet occasionally on a Thursday evening to learn new songs and we are always happy to see more people if anyone wishes to join us.

Our thanks to all of the above mentioned for their continuing support.

Janet Smith

Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride

This event took place on 12th September. Many thanks to all who manned the church throughout the day and to those who so generously sponsored the 3 families who took part on bikes raising a total of £339.

Graham and Janet Smith

Octagon Wives

The Octagon Wives have enjoyed another successful year and have had some interesting talks including a talk by Joyce Naylor about her experiences as a wartime child evacuee and a visit from the East Coast Truckers charity volunteers.

We have also had a New Year meal at Zaks. A Spring Social and a Summer Barbeque are also on the Agenda.

Several members also took part in the Christingle Service which raised £294.95 for the Childrens Society.

Our numbers have increased again this year and we are always very pleased to welcome new members.

Ann Fordham

OLM Progress

This is probably the last year that this report will be written (at least by me!). My thanks go to all of you for the support and encouragement you have given me during my training, special thanks go to Rev'd Robert and Andy, without whose help, I would not be where I am today. The training this year has been as stretching as in previous years but very enjoyable. As I write this I know that I have two more assignments to write as part of this course.

Recently Rev'd Robert and I met with Rev'd Dr Sue Woan for as she put it, "my official handing back to him". My future training, although she will be doing some of it, is now in the hands of the Benefice and Rev'd Steven Betts the BOOIT (Bishops officer for ordinands and initial training). For the next four years I will be doing a CME course (continued ministerial education) at the end of which I can gain a degree.

It just leaves me to say thank you, again, and I hope you will all be there at Norwich Cathedral to see me ordained a deacon on October 2nd.

Debbie Driver

Open to God Home Group

We continue to meet weekly on a Tuesday evening at 128 The Street, although the bad weather this year we did miss several weeks. However, we have studied both Hebrews and the Acts of the Apostles since last Easter and found both worth doing. The evenings usually consist of fellowship/sharing (with drinks!), prayer and time of worship before the study.

We number nine, although two are unable to join us at present but Bob has joined us, which is great, and we hope Elizabeth will be back with us soon. Pauline doesn't come to the group but follows the Bible study we do. The Mathias study books are equally ideal for individual as well as group study. We are not a closed group and would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to try us out.

We continue to support Churches Together functions and also to help with Dean and Paula Finnie (with Joel and Eli) in their work with the Grace Community Church near Cape Town. (Crosslinks) Although individually we give only £2 a month we have sent a total of £928.59 (Including Gift Aid) since we started in October 2006. The total for 2009 was £267.80 (Including Gift Aid). Every little helps!!

Updates re the Finnie's and their work are on the Octagon notice board.

Last summer we had a BBQ, again to which we invited friends with minimal church connections. Again, for the fourth year, excellent weather and good times!

Jenny Oates

PCC Secretary's Report

It has been another busy year for the PCC which has met three times in this period. Again much of the time this year has been spent discussing repairs to the fabric as either a result of damage or as required by general maintenance.

Andy Driver

Planned Giving

There were 40 people using the weekly envelope scheme during 2009 of which 31 have been able to sign the declaration that they are tax payers. The amount given by them and by people using the yellow gift aid envelopes amounted to £20841.60. This means that I have been able to claim a tax repayment of £5959.17 from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, which is a welcome boost to the funds of All Saints.

The figures cannot be compared to 2008 as there were several one-off donations in that year. However, they are virtually identical to 2007 which shows that, despite the recession, people still continue to support All Saints financially.

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank most sincerely everyone who has continued to give so generously.

I have several spare sets of weekly envelopes and if there is anyone not already in the scheme who would like to join, please let me know and I will be happy to make the arrangements.

Arthur Peters

Poringland Village Hall

In the summer 2009 the PCC agreed that in order to move ahead on our planning for the village hall we should set up a development fund specifically for a new build on the site. This has resulted in significant donations from a small group of supporters that as I write has risen to over £30,000, including a generous £20,000 from a single anonymous supporter.

This has allowed us to talk to two building designers and to engage Tim Bunn, (husband of Rev'd Rosie Bunn in Stoke Holy Cross), who has considerable expertise in both church and planning matters locally. It was Tim who assisted with identifying our expert on Bixley Church and whose report swayed the group decision.

We are currently exploring the various grant bodies to see if we can secure any help for the rebuild.

Sadly our hoped for project leader in Mark Fretwell has not materialised, but we remain hopeful he will help when the time comes for us to make applications.

I am also pleased to report that following complaints from residents in the Footpath to SNDC about the spare ground behind the hall being left to waste, we obtained a South Norfolk Neighbourhood Fund grant of over £1600 to go towards the costs of new fencing and clearing the ground. The fencing is in place and gradually we will see the ground cleared and seeded.

Robert, Debbie and I attended a superb day at HTB (Holy Trinity, Brompton, home of the Alpha Course) in October called 'Vision to Action' and were all inspired by what we learnt and saw happening across the country when church groups set about new projects.

We believe it can happen here with the village hall.

Various groups use the hall on an adhoc basis while others do so on a more regular basis. We currently have nine groups using the Village Hall on a regular basis, among them, Poringland Playgroup. They are now using the hall 3 mornings a week and have managed to increase their numbers this year both in daily toddlers and in the number of days they are present. They have recently been successful in securing a sustainability grant of £5000 which will relieve them of all their outstanding debt and provide a cushion for the future and new equipment.

We are continuing to encourage other groups to use the hall as we look constantly for additional usage across the community.

Our thanks again to Elaine Chapman for all her help, together with Ronnie Sadler.

Barry Catchpole & Elaine Chapman

Prayer Meeting/Diary

This year has seen further increases in those receiving the diary by e-mail. This enables people to pray with the church even if they have been unable to attend on Sunday. The prayer diary can also now be downloaded from the new Benefice Web Site. There has also been a large increase in the requests for prayer, especially from non church goers. We have been blessed with many answers to prayer, for which we are ever thankful to our Lord.

I hope that everyone finds the prayer diary on the pew sheet useful as they pray at home. It is right that we do this in the quietness of

our homes as Jesus advised people to pray in private behind closed doors as God sees what is done in private.

The Monday morning prayer meeting continues with up to six people meeting regularly. This is a wonderful time of shared prayer in which everyone is welcome.

Debbie Driver

The 'Meeting Place' Coffee Stop

We have been in existence for 2.5 years and the Wednesday mornings to seem to be filling several different needs. We have a number of regulars, men and women, mainly in the older age group but also a group involved in researching our village history comes the first week of the month,

Friends meet up for a coffee and chat, and walkers 'drop in '.

Two weeks ago a couple walked from Alington with their twin grandsons in a double buggy!

Numbers have been between 12 and 29 this last year, probably the average is 18/20 each week.

Our rota of teams of 4 continue one week a month and we now have 3 people from St Andrews. I am extremely grateful for the strong commitment that is shown by all involved.

On our 2nd Birthday we had a bring and share lunch, preceded by a 'sing-a-long'. Marion played for us for which we were very grateful.

Our bank balance(income from donations given) is very healthy.

This last Christmas we gave £300 to the Village Hall Development Fund.

If you haven't been to the 'Meeting Place Coffee Stop', do come in one Wednesday and tell others about it. There is somewhere in the village to meet up each weekday now which is good.

We aim to provide a welcoming atmosphere for everyone and for us to have time to sit and listen to many who live on their own and lack company. We would love to welcome mums and toddlers, but generally they do 'their own thing' (which isn't mixing with older folk!), which is perfectly understandable. We do get a few now and again.

Jenny Oates

Visiting Team

Not much change this year-we haven't grown in numbers which would have enabled us to keep more frequent contact with the elderly-but we remain five in number: Janet, Elaine, Denise, Rachel and myself. Dolly visits Cynthia and is in contact with many through the Good Companions Club. It would be good to have at least one male visitor in the team as men can have a very important part to play.

We meet regularly for support and allocation, and we make contact with all those who have suffered bereavement in the Benefice. Many accept visits which can be ongoing for a while, and they do appreciate the Church's involvement. A Short Bereavement Course (2hrs X 3), can be arranged as long as at least two people wish to do it. Please speak to Robert or myself re this.

Regarding the elderly, we visit those we know about if they wish us to. Pauline (through Age Concern) plays Scrabble weekly with a handicapped housebound lady and Val (a hospital volunteer at the N&NUH) visits some whilst they're there. I visit Cedar House, Cresta Lodge and now Hethersett Hall Care home where some of our elderly folk are living. We also support the monthly communion service at Albion House and the Cresta Lodge monthly service.

As I have stated previously we find it a great privilege to be involved with those in need, often at critical times in their lives and are able, hopefully, to show a little of the Lord's great love for them whether they know Him or not. We pray that they will feel His peace, strength and hope during these times.

Jenny Oates

Wednesday Communion

This lovely service we share with our friends at Albion House. As we gather round the Lord's table we remember all that Jesus did for us, how He loved us and gave His life for us and so we gladly thank Him and try our best to walk in His way. Loving one another as He asked us to do.

Dolly Osborne

Wednesday Group

2009 has proved to be another interesting year for the group with a great variety of speakers. Subjects have included, Norfolk Churches and their wildlife, Street urchins of Kenya and closer to home, the history of Cannell's Seeds of Loddon. Membership remains at 34 and following the sad loss of two members, two new ladies have joined us. We enjoyed raising funds for the Air Ambulance at the Fete and thanks to Nina for inviting us to a Tea and Chat in her garden on a pleasant summer afternoon.

The 2pm meetings during winter proved popular and now we are back to a 7.45pm start.

New members are always welcome!

Nell Harvey

Wednesday House Group

This year's group has met sporadically during the first part of the year for various reasons, only getting going properly just after Christmas when we started a new course with the able and authoritative leadership of Bob Linton. We are most grateful to him for doing this and as a result our knowledge and understanding of the book of Ruth is much improved.

Anyone is welcome to join us, alternating between 7, Caistor Lane and Dollywagon on Stoke Road as shown on the pew sheet on a roughly fortnightly basis.

Graham Smith

Youth Work

2009/2010 has been a year of planting, growth and pruning. We have seen Rock Solid morph into two new clubs: NRG and Mettle. Kids Club and IGnight are starting to establish themselves and @mosphere has closed. Notable encouragements include the positive impacts of Newday festival and The Crux Media Week in the High School, as well as the growth of The Crux Lunch Club.

@mosphere

Very regretfully, we recently had to announce that due to long-term, persistent anti-social behaviour this term time Monday night drop in youth club has had to be closed indefinitely.

On a more positive note, as a result of this closure, we have now been able to allocate more time to new and existing activities and dates at the Crux lunchtime drop in at Framingham Earl High School; this is a much safer and controlled environment for everyone concerned.

While we feel it was necessary to stop @mosphere for the time being, the @mosphere model will probably be brought back again at some time in the future but with a different branding. However, we feel it is unwise to do so too soon due to reasons for the closure.

Camps:

We have secured £600 from a successful grant from the diocese to subsidise ticket costs for NYFC's Spring Camp 2010 and Newday in August. From the success of last years Newday, we hope to camp with Oak Grove Church again. So far thanks to the subsidies we have 8 young people booked in to Newday, and 7 young people booked in to Spring Camp. Last year God really spoke to the young people through Newday and its so encouraging to see them grow in their faith.

IGNight:

(Youth Event / 'Service' for 11- 18's)

IGNight is in its second year and has been really encouraging, with different young people taking on leadership. We are thinking about taking the IGNight young people along to 'Wildlife' every other month, with IGNight volunteers volunteering to drive young people in convoy.

Kids Club

KIDS Club is a club for 5 to 9 year olds meeting monthly in Poringland Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month between 16:45 and 19:00. It has a similar content, but necessarily reduced in scope, to what we offer in the summer holiday club.

The idea is to nurture this age group towards the clubs we have for older children (NRG and Mettle) and also to offer a follow-up to the

holiday club. Since KIDS Club began in Autumn 2008 our records show that 50 different children have visited KIDS Club at least once. However, the average number attending in any one evening is about 12 and they tend to be in the 5 to 7 years age bracket. We are very thankful indeed to an enthusiastic group of volunteers consisting of Johny, Ronnie, Amy, Nik, Robert, and Sean. And we are also very thankful indeed for Andy in setting up the audio-visual equipment each month.

Mettle:

Mettle (Activities / Themed Club for 13 – 16's)

Mettle is a small group for 13-16's, while we are disappointed it has not attracted more young people we have benefited from better small group discussions. For this term we are taking the group to do NYFC's 2010 Youth Alpha course at the Kings Centre in Norwich, along with some young people from Fram. Gospel Choir.

NRG:

(Games Club for 9 – 12's)

NRG (to fill the 9-12's gap) started last term alternating with Mettle. While each session so far has gone really well, we have about five 9 - 12's coming. We have eight young leaders currently helping with this club and I have been impressed with how well they are doing. I feel the clubs purpose is not only to provide something for the 9 – 12's, but also to develop confidence and leadership in these young leaders. Please pray for the growth of NRG.

Poringland Youth Club

The Friday night Council run club has had the same behavioural problems as @mosphere, but we have brought in no nonsense ground rules which seem to be bearing fruit. The volunteers there have had lots of conflict training, one of which is an ex bouncer! This club attracts the same crowd as @mosphere, this was not the case last year.

The Crux

(Room 1 of the High School, usually at lunchtimes on Tuesdays)

The Crux is going well, since moving to the new larger room (room 1) we have seen new members. Two NYFC year outers (Becky and Danny) are currently helping with this, as well as Nik Gower. The Crux Media Team from National YFC came and take 3 'Film School' workshops each day, and some assemblies in January. This week was made possible from the specific £800 grant secured by us over a year ago from the diocese. As a result of the Media Week we have seen the lunch club grow, and have created a Facebook Group called 'The Crux Fram'.

Newday Youth Community Project(s):

We are very excited to announce that this summer (from Thursday 12th to Monday 16th August) we are organising to bring into the community a substantial number of young people to be involved in large scale community projects in Poringland and Framingham Earl. From 6,000 to 8,000 young people (11 to 18's) from all over the country are expected to attend the 'Newday' Youth Festival at the Norfolk show-ground at this time. On the afternoon of each day hundreds of these young people will volunteer to be bussed into various communities in and around the Norwich area in order to serve these communities in practical ways. The minimum number will be one coach full (49 young people) but it will be possible to receive several hundreds (or even more) if we can come up with ideas to organise and utilise them.

We also expect local teenagers from Poringland and Framingham Earl to be included amongst the volunteers. As well as the physical labour such a group will provide, we feel it will also serve to raise the reputation of teenagers across the local community and help develop community spirit, especially across the different generations. Last year, similar projects were held in different areas in and around Norwich and the Police say they are still noticing the positive impacts where these community projects happened; the local press were also often involved.

So far, the suggestions for Poringland and Framingham Earl include activities like free car washing / wheelie bin washing and/or gardening work and/or painting work. But we would very much like to hear from you what possibilities you feel there could be for service in the community.

Johny Grimwood

For any personal notes: