

St. Barnabas Church Waunarlwydd

(Discovering the Love of God in Jesus Christ)



Parish Report 2011

Parochial Church Council

Vicar - Rev. Dr. Ian Davies 01792-874286
iandavies12@hotmail.com

<i>Chris Griffiths</i>	01554-821202
<i>Anne Tinkler</i>	01792-879755
<i>Mary Taylor</i>	01792-873083
<i>Tony Heaven</i>	01792-873283
<i>Julie Wagstaff</i>	01792-845426
<i>Mair Cornish</i>	01792-428124
<i>Antony Bidder</i>	01792-874349
<i>Alison Sandy</i>	01792-537820
<i>Jayne Richards</i>	01792-873710

Introduction

As you will see when you read this year's Parish Report, it's been an incredibly busy year. All the different reports reflect the rich variety of parish church life and the encouragement we have that God is graciously working amongst and through his people here as we seek to discover the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Ian - Vicar

www.saintbarnabaschurch.org.uk

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Discovering the love of God in Jesus Christ

As I write at the end of February it's with enormous thankfulness to God for keeping us focussed on him after an amazing year of development. Having been blessed by people's sacrificial giving it was a year ago to the day that the South Wales Evening Post reported the great news that the Welsh Assembly Government was going to support the restoration work in the hall by means of a Communities First grant - and how the time has flown! I stand amazed at the work that's been accomplished renewing and restoring St. Barnabas (and those who have studied the 'before' and 'after' photographs I'm sure share that sense of amazement). After a frozen Christmas season, to have felt secure, dry and warm in both church and hall has been such a blessing and such in contrast to last winter when we froze!! It meant that those who faithfully trudged up the hill in the snow for our Carols 'round the Crib and Midnight Communion services were able to receive the best of a warm Waunarwydd welcome. And while other churches were cancelling services, we were packed out - thank the Lord for his goodness!!

But this isn't a time for staying still, complacent in the knowledge that we might be okay now - because we've been blessed *for a purpose*: that people get to discover God's love in Jesus. That has entailed ensuring that the church buildings are safe and warm, but as a basis for witnessing not only through our worship in the church but also through our presence in serving this community: i.e. *being* church, not just attending services. I'm so grateful to my wonderful Wardens and for all on the PCC who've helped fuel and encourage that sense of outreach and mission, because it's the reason we're still here 123 years after St. Barnabas was first consecrated as a place of worship

I'm so thankful, too, for everyone pulling together over these past months, because you've had to be so patient. It's been a job extremely well done, so far, but there's still some way to go after having sorted out the basic repair work needing to be done. We're having another Quinquennial (5 year) review this year: something we can approach with a bit more confidence than last time! In one of last Sunday's lectionary readings the Apostle Paul actually used the picture of buildings and inspection (no less!) to talk about spiritual growth. This is Paul writing to the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23)

...you are God's house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints; Apollos is putting up the walls. Let each carpenter who

comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ. Take particular care in picking out your building materials. Eventually there is going to be an inspection. If you use cheap or inferior materials, you'll be found out. The inspection will be thorough and rigorous. You won't get by with a thing. If your work passes inspection, fine; if it doesn't, your part of the building will be torn out and started over. But you won't be torn out; you'll survive—but just barely. You realize, don't you, that you are the temple of God, and God himself is present in you? No one will get by with vandalizing God's temple, you can be sure of that. God's temple is sacred—and you, remember, are the temple. Don't fool yourself. Don't think that you can be wise merely by being up-to-date with the times. Be God's fool - that's the path to true wisdom. What the world calls smart, God calls stupid. I don't want to hear any of you bragging about yourself or anyone else. Everything is already yours as a gift - Paul, Apollos, Peter, the world, life, death, the present, the future - all of it is yours, and you are privileged to be in union with Christ, who is in union with God.

So the changes continue - and it doesn't make sense if the Church *isn't* continuing to develop. Who would have thought we'd see such a desire for change and movement in so many middle-eastern nations all at once? As the Jesuit writer Gerard Hughes points out, the Church is the *sacrament* of God in the world, defined by St. Augustine as "a visible sign of an invisible reality", an effective sign of the presence of God-with-us. And the Church must continue to reflect this transcendent quality of God, this characteristic unpredictability, this surprise element, because we serve a 'God of Surprises'.

On a more personal note, having recently been asked to assume the mantle passed on by the departing Canon Keith Smalldon as Diocesan Director of Ministry, Sue and I shall be facing our own challenges with all the extra responsibilities. The Wardens and I are working hard to ensure that everything regarding church is covered (oh yes if you weren't clear, sorry, you're not getting rid of me just yet!!). The diocese has had to commit itself to what people these days generally refer to as 'multi-skilling'. Effectively what that means is that I will continue as Vicar and as Lay Ministry Officer, but also now as Director of Ordinands ('DDO' - looking after those training for the ordained ministry), and also assume responsibility for their initial continuing ministerial education (ICME) for the first three years after ordination. As I list all that, I must

confess to suppressing feelings of rising panic, so I'm going to need all the support I can get! What continues to encourage me though is feeling so much a part of the church family here.

All these challenges are expressed in the changing seasons as we long for Spring to (at last) break out. I noticed my first primrose this week - surrounded by crocuses - but I had to look really carefully. May we discern signs of the Kingdom amongst us and allow God to move us by the Holy Spirit into the delight of serving him - happy and courageous, rather than guilty or afraid. *God is on the move* - and he makes all things new!

As I reviewed my original hopes when I began my ministry here, once again there are so many reasons to be encouraged, and (of course) lots of work still to do:

1. To encourage those on the 'periphery' to more committed involvement/membership

Can I encourage you to make your worship of God, your relationship with Jesus, and your openness to the Holy Spirit a real priority in your lives. So often life's events conspire to make us concentrate on 'other things' to the detriment of regularly meeting with each other for worship. The writer to the Hebrews says:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

We only grow physically when we're fed regularly. If we're to move together as God's people we shouldn't miss out on being nourished through God's Word and in Communion with him and each other at his Table. And when not feeling so well because of life's stresses and strains isn't that all the more reason to ensure we're not missing out on the opportunity to receive ministry and feed our reliance on the Lord? There are regular worshippers whom I think God would just love to encourage into home groups (for Bible study and fellowship) or occasional study groups in order that they may deepen their spiritual life and be more confident in their witness. I *know* I've been saying this since arriving, but please do consider it, because it's in a more relaxed setting, outside of the relative formality of the set church services that people are able to ask questions, check

things out and encourage one another. It's so encouraging to see folks who have grown spiritually once they've realized how naturally this can happen in a more comfortable setting where they discover there are no real experts after all - and that we're all disciples - life-long learners - and all in the same boat!!

2. Encouraging Lay Ministry: training lay worship leaders/intercessors; pastoral lay visitors (also part of my role as Diocesan Lay Ministry Officer)

After being accepted for ordination training by the Provincial Selection Board, Julie (Wagstaff) started her course last Summer and is working hard on her academic studies and placement as well as juggling the responsibilities of full-time work in Swansea University. What the Lord is doing in her life is a source of great pride for all of us. Chris (Griffiths) is coming to the end of her stint as Vicar's Warden and PCC member and has been trained recently as a Pastoral Lay Visitor to join our hard working team (comprising Margaret Holland, Antony Bidder, Jen Wittey and Phyl Prevel). Our lay worship leaders Phyl, Chris and Julie (until she began her training) have led us beautifully this past year and will continue to enhance our worship development - along with Maureen's lovely music and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Phyl's Eucharistic ministry in the community is now firmly established and is much appreciated by those she visits regularly with Home Communion.

3. Encouraging the PCC to be just as much about spiritual life and wider parish/mission responsibilities as the nuts and bolts of fabric and finance

A smaller PCC has enabled us to be a proper decision-making body during what has proved to be an important year. Meetings are focused, honest (even fun!) and we have developed a healthy accountability to each other and to God's missionary purposes for his church. But we're now looking forward to seeing some new faces because this will bring additional energy and ideas. Please pray regularly for those who represent you on this important body, and let us know if you're feeling nudged about putting yourself forward for election.

4. Establishing healing prayer ministry as part of the warp and weft of church life

The first Sunday evening in the month 'alternative' worship and healing service is an opportunity to experience something 'different' and those who have experienced how God can move in this more relaxed and contemplative setting would warmly commend it, so please come and be part of this quiet, meditative time especially now the nights are getting lighter. But it's not just here that prayer works - we have seen such practical answers to prayer as we've sought finance for our restoration work (e.g.) that we need to make sure everything as well as everybody who needs it gets on our prayer list and into our prayer life. In his New Testament letter James says:

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with

5. Establishing additional opportunities for people to experience 'fresh expressions' of church'

The 'Messy Church' initiative has continued to encourage us to 'push the boat out' a little, because we're regularly deluged by new folks who are quite happy to experience this different expression of church. Of course its 'success' in drawing people to come again depends on making the events known as well as who's on hand to help Mary (Taylor) and Debbie (Williams) who, as well as fronting up our Junior Church, also take turns co-ordinating Messy Church (also see 6. below). So if you *can* help, please say! Later this year, on Friday June 10th we'll be hosting an outreach event in St. Barnabas where Dai Woolridge of the 'Going Public Theatre Company' will reprise his role as the Apostle Paul in 'The Tentmaker'.

6. Attracting new faces/families - and the influx of some additional committed helpers.

"The load is still being borne by the few willing hands!" Actually that's a direct quote from *last year's* report!! We desperately need additional pairs of hands to pitch in and make things work, because 'the few' are getting pretty exhausted! It's great to hear new voices reading the scriptures (thank you) but we still need helpers with the children's work; cleaning and maintaining the church and grounds, and generally volunteering for our special events. Church *isn't* just for

an hour on Sundays. In fact that's really just the gathering of the church together in worship. As I said earlier we're *being* church when we care and support one another in the church family - yes - but also 'out there' in the community, because this is why we've been rescued (saved). A living faith in the Lord Jesus affects every part of the disciple's life. God's heart is for all the people in this wonderful and enormously varied community to come to know Jesus. It is (after all) his mission, what he's about, and it is our privilege to be part of this.

So thank you again, from the bottom of my heart, for all you do that helps make this place 'God's meadow'. We are so blessed. It's impossible to single anyone out, but all your contributions in all sorts of ways whether that be running organizations, arranging events, keeping the church fragrant and clean, warm safe and welcoming, giving financial support, making food or just being here to encourage others are valued highly 'in the Lord'.

And it is to God that we look for continued guidance and strength, through his Holy Spirit to encourage us and build us up in our love for the Lord Jesus Christ, for one another and for all those in this community in which we've been placed.

*With love in Christ,
Ian
Vicar
22nd February, 2011*

Churchwardens

Working together in God's field

Well folks, it's that time of year again. Hasn't the past year flown by and what wonderful blessings we have received (!) - too numerous to mention them all but it would be remiss of us if we didn't mention one or two. Firstly we have been blessed with steady growth: in congregation, variety of services and outreach. Due to a wonderful welcome at St Barnabas, people feel comfortable, confident, warm and valued - essentials needed to nurture growth and development in each of our journeys with God. We have been fortunate to enjoy some interesting, diverse services led by our Lay Worship leaders, leading to some challenging, relevant discussions about our experiences and outlook on our faith. Our thanks and prayers go to Phyl, Julie and Chris as they continue to learn about and develop this ministry. Messy Church continues to be successful and lively, reaching out to families in the community to come and see what we do at St Barnabas. Plans are afoot to build and develop further on this success. St. Barnabas is continually looking to serve the parish of Waunarwydd and is seen to be involved in many community activities, both secular and non-secular. It is a real blessing to support the village and the people within. As Bishop John said in his Episcopal Visitation sermon recently: "If the people don't come to church, then we must take church to the people." It's wonderful to see the combined efforts of all the different churches in the village working together for the same cause, God's glory.

We must thank Canon Douglas Davies for his loyal and prayerful support in so many ways. We are ever-mindful of his experience, knowledge and sense of humour as we journey on together.

Where would we be without our vicar?? Despite ever increasing constraints on his time and resources, Ian continues to lead us all at St Barnabas forward. In tune with the Bishop, he is constantly looking at new ways to encourage and develop our understanding of our faith and love of God. Thank you Ian, for all that you do within the church and the community and for the interest, patience and love that you show to each one of us. God bless you, Sue and Joel as you take up your new responsibilities within the diocese.

We have also been blessed with many donations over the year: of money and equipment. Many thanks to all those within the parish, and outside, who support

St Barnabas in any way at all. Without your help, we would not be enjoying the comfortable, warm environment that we have or be able to continue our work in spreading God's message. The first phase of the restoration work is nearing completion, which has virtually exhausted all our financial resources. We have had the added bonus of replacing an inefficient heating system that has caused problems for years. In spite of all this, we are up to date with the parish share and all our financial commitments. This is mainly due to the efficient and careful stewardship of Mr Anthony Heaven.

Special thanks must go to our builders for their care and attention during the refurbishment of the church and hall. We can count ourselves blessed to have had craftsman who showed such respect for our building and worked to a very high standard in often difficult circumstances.

In addition, we must also thank Antony Bidder and Anthony Heaven who have worked tirelessly, over the year, liaising with the builders, to ensure minimum disruption to the congregation. They have even done some of the work themselves. Thank you gentlemen.

So that's the two stars - now for the wish (for those of you who are teachers!)

Taken from Paul's First letter to the Corinthians (Chapter 3 from *The Message*)

'But for right now, friends, I'm completely frustrated by your unspiritual dealings with each other and with God.

...As long as you grab for what makes you feel good or makes you look important, are you really much different than a babe at the breast, content only when everything's going your way?

...Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be in God's field in which we are working...'

Harsh words from Paul, but his frustration is understandable. (He *must* have been a Warden...!)

We are *all* guilty of 'unspiritual' dealings. Here's the top 3 most common gripes...

- Taking one another for granted.
- Focusing on our own projects and not seeing the whole picture.
- Break-down in communication and lack of support.

There have been times this year when being a Warden has been a very lonely job.

We have felt under pressure to maintain the hospitality and outreach that St. Barnabas is known for. Why?

Because on occasions we appear to be a family divided, working *independently of* and sometimes *against* one another! And all this in God's name?

Our constitution declares we must elect a PCC and appoint officers and Wardens but it should not hinder anyone from *showing initiative* or *shouldering* some of the *responsibilities*. **We are all called to serve in whatever way we can.**

As Wardens we would love you to come forward and be more actively involved in ALL church activities.

We would really like to see 'new blood' joining the PCC. Sharing ideas giving energy, enthusiasm and drive to encourage new growth and promote outreach within the parish. *Please consider making that commitment.*

Finally, may we thank the very loyal core of volunteers who can be relied upon to 'work in God's field' for minimum wages. Without your dedicated service, sense of humour and generosity of spirit, St. Barnabas would be a much poorer place.

*God bless you all.
Anne, Mary & Chris*

Mothers' Union

After postponing our A.G.M. twice due to snow it eventually took place on 26th of Jan. Reports were read and accounts accepted.

Our membership for 2010 was 29, including 4 I.M.P.C. (Indoor Members Prayer Circle) members, and the theme for the year was 'Relationships not Rules'. We decided that charity should begin at home, however, we did stray a little owing to disasters and circumstances that presented themselves as the year went on. There was a great need when the overseas fund was low and as always our generous members and friends rose to the challenge.

Sadly we lost two very special members during the year, Mrs. Annie Jones and Mrs. Ruby Rowlands. Both ladies over the years made exceptional contributions to the Branch and Church. Ruby was Branch Leader for a total of 16 years and we are grateful for the commitment and love she had for the M.U. and I was honoured when she handed me her prayer books and photos for our archives.

Speakers/Events

Mrs. Mary Minty Sidica	<i>Domesticity in the early 20th century. Proprietor of Jasmine and local Newsagent.</i>
Mrs. Virginia Prifitie	<i>The Lawrence Roundabout Appeal.</i>
Ms. Karren Samuel	<i>Safe Houses.</i>
Rev. Kay Warrington	<i>Promoting M.U. and Godly Play.</i>
October	<i>Auction.</i>
December	<i>Carols and Festivities.</i>

The parenting and literacy programme celebrated their 10th anniversary. The work of the MU educating and empowering women is so worthwhile, as the knowledge will be passed onto the next generation resulting in a healthier and happier existence.

Events Attended

Commissioning service at Brecon, Diocesan Festival at Brecon, 2 Council Meetings at Brecon, 2 Deanery Meetings at St. John's Gowerton, Deanery Festival at St. Teilos Pontardullais, Quiet Afternoon at St. Hillary's Killay and Advent Retreat at Nicholston House.

Links - Rep Mrs. J. Wittey.

Thanks to Jen we have regular correspondence from Bunbury Australia, where in 2010 they needed rain because they were subjected to temperatures of 40 degrees which resulted in drought, but as we know it has been an horrendous start to the year for many Australians with the floods. Liz Meredith hopes to visit Bunbury in 2011 and hopes to meet with Jean Brenen. Jean read one of Jen's letters to the bishop and congregation in the cathedral at Boniface. Liz has been our banner bearer this year.

Twinning - Rep Eva Kite,

We are twinned with Painscastle in the north of the diocese but sadly they are not replying to our mail, and we have only received one letter so far. Thanks to Eva for all her efforts.

Faith and Social Policy - Pat Davies.

Thanks to Pat our prayer book is updated monthly, It would be wonderful if any of the congregation would like to include a prayer before it goes into print, Prayer life is central to our organization and we have a daily wave of prayer, a prayer chain for the sick and indoor members and annually on 21st of August we have the Worldwide Wave of Prayer which is always special to us. This year thanks to Ian and all who took part, it was an hour of thanks and praise followed by a simple lunch in the Church Hall.

Quiet Afternoon - St Hillary's Killay.

Speaker was Fr. Tim Williams who made us focus on Mary as the mother of Jesus and Jesus as the child which was appropriate to us and our relationship themes of the past four years.

Advent Retreat

Five members attended Nicholaston House. It was taken by Rev Lervy and we had a really good day. We shared Communion, sang, had plenty of time for quiet contemplation and shared wonderful fellowship with others from the South of diocese - and enjoyed an excellent lunch.

Carols and Festivities

We reached out to the community and those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Ian played for us to sing the carols and a good time was had by all.

We had several visitors from The Seniors Group and some from the Luncheon Club as well as members from our congregation.

The social policy arm of MU is calling on the Government to tackle the commercialization and sexualization of childhood; and to fully prohibit sexualized media, marketing and products aimed at or easily accessible to children under 16. We have sent a 'Bye Bye Childhood' petition to the Government. We are also in discussion concerning civil partnership and paternity leave.

S.K.I.P. - (Supervising kids in prison)

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED !

At one time there were over 100 on the rota, sadly there are now only around 30. You do not have to be a M.U. member to help in the crèche so if anyone is interested, please let us know and a trial visit can be arranged. We have had more positive experiences than negative and have had great fun with the children. The wardens are very friendly and supportive and there is a good atmosphere there.

A.F.I.A. (Away from it all)

Holidays and away-days are given free to those in need. This year 2011 only one has been requested. Please speak to Ian, myself or the school if you wish to nominate anyone deserving as we all have the necessary forms.

Marketing

This includes all our publications i.e. 'Families First', a very topical and interesting magazine; 'Families Worldwide', which has daily prayers and is a hive of information about members worldwide and 'M.U. News' which is a more local publication keeping us updated of branches in our diocese and events in Britain. Please read them, there is usually one in church or on our notice board and anyone can subscribe to the magazine the others are free to members. Thanks to Eva who is retiring as our rep.

Mothers Union Enterprises, which is our sales catalogue for goods, is very important and the proceeds of this helps to fund our good works. Over the next year we hope to encourage our congregation to support us. I will be covering as rep. until a volunteer comes forward.

Action and Outreach - rep. Debbie Williams.

Branch Projects:- Bays, Safe Houses, Candles for Baptism and Marriage, Comfort Boxes, Bookmark Cards for Mothering Sunday and Bouquet of flowers to one of our sick on that day, Anniversary of baptism cards via Chris Hedley, cards for sick and bereaved via Lyn Davies. We still have a small group of youths from Tycoch College who do tasks around the church and at Christmas we gave them a small token of appreciation.

We had three big birthdays this year. Mabel was 90 and we presented her with a rose tree, Douglas was also 90 and we gave him a gift and Doreen Hill celebrated her 80th and we gave flowers. We were able to give Julie Wagstaff a little support as she started her training and we continually pray for her. At Christmas we sent a gift to Troy Brown and family who lost their mum and there were two comfort boxes for the children filled with practical items and goodies.

On the day that Virginia spoke to us about her son's short life and the work she now does in his name, to bring roundabout wells into communities where there is virtually no water, we were all so moved and when the meeting was over, and in spite of us only being a small gathering, we raised £100 for her cause.

In September our mini auction raised £150 and a collection was made for the overseas fund realizing £51 making a total of £201, which was desperately needed. The Christmas Famine Appeal sadly had very little support outside M.U. this year, possibly due to bad weather and people not attending church, however we sent £32.60.

We support Messy Church, the Prison Crèche and always make sure there is an open invitation to all our meetings and events always keeping the chapels informed of our programme. We had Christmas Lunch at the Welcome to Gower. Thirty five attended (and some didn't want to go home!) Thanks Deb.

Treasurer - Chris Hedley.

Thanks to Chris who has been my left arm this year and kept us in the black this has allowed us to give to many good causes. The generosity of members and friends is amazing. We sent £30 to the Kenyan Famine Appeal, collected £109.48 in our a/o boxes, £29 went to the sponsored walk up Kilimanjaro, Christmas Famine Appeal 2010 £55.28, £50 was given to St Barnabas for heating, a £20

donation to Mary Sumner House, £20 to the Deanery Fund, £5 to Llangasty Retreat House in addition to monies spent in Action and Outreach Report.

Secretary - Jen Wittey.

Thanks to Jen for being my right arm helping me set up taking minutes, in fact everything including jogging my memory when it fails and also for the huge amounts of fundraising for church and M.U. The 'Tea at The Ritz' was a fabulous event and the cakes she has raffled has boosted our funds.

It has been wonderful to have Peggy back with us and compiling the rotas so efficiently and for Terry who in spite of recovering after his operation produced our 2011 programmes.

To finally sum up the year I have been moved to see how everyone has pulled together at meetings and events and I feel I have witnessed the Spirit moving. Our generosity in always answering God's call when and where there is a need has been proven. We have maintained close contact with our Indoor Members as planned. Although we said farewell to dear friends we must look to the future and encourage new membership and embrace change if we are to keep the flame of Mary Sumner's Prayer alight.

My gratitude to members, reps, committee, drivers, visitors, the congregation, Ian, Douglas for all the support they have given me. May God bless and strengthen us to do his work and help us to remember that our meetings should have Faith Fellowship and Fun.

Best Wishes,

Margaret Holland.

Ladies' Guild

Hi Folks, Doesn't time fly by, can't believe it's time for another report!! We have had another busy year in guild again this year popping round for tea and cakes to one another's houses every fortnight. It has been a year of babies and weddings for us this year with 3 new additions to the families and 1 wedding and lots and lots of shopping!!

We presented the church with a cheque for £200 this year which we raised through our small efforts. Although there are only a handful of us left, we are still hard at work.

We didn't have a trip as such this year but instead went on a shopping expedition. Not enough of us to get a bus together now as buses are so expensive, so it had to be in "the beast" (that's dad dad's car for those who are confused.) Well where do you think we went.....? Yes you guessed it, McArthur Glenn. 'Isn't that only in Bridgend?', I hear you shout. Yes, yes that's right it is in Bridgend!! And they wanted to go by bus so I had to put my foot down and take the vehicle. It would have taken us two hours to get there if we'd gone on the bus and as Von W had gibbed out by goin' on hols, there was plenty of room for us in the beast. I think Von W might have a crystal ball you know!! Well we set off on a crisp light snowy day and had a pleasant trip on the M4. When arriving at the outlet Mary says "Go round the back to the car park" (you'll just have to imagine the accent!). This we did much to Jan W's dismay as there was a good covering of thick ice just by the 15 steps we had to go up to reach the shops. Von M refused at first to get out of the car until someone else had tested the slippery surface!! Marian and myself sprung into action..... After proving the safety we all got out and made our way up the steps. I can hear you saying 'they haven't got up the steps yet???' What you have to remember is that there isn't a lot to do or see in the outlet, so I have to pad this out a bit - and it did take them ages to get up the steps! Then when at the top, 1st stop obviously the loos - well we have got Taylor with us. Next stop the coffee shop for hot choc and cakes - you have to have this on a guild trip it's mandatory. Then we headed off for some retail therapy. Our mission was to get Taylor sorted with an outfit for the wedding. We failed on this task but only coz there wasn't anything suitable for the old chuck. We stopped off at the chocolate 2nd's shop and then headed up to the Harvester for lunch. Now the harvester only looks a short distance away from the outlet just up at the top there but the distance is quite deceiving. We ended up walking

in the middle of the road only to find that we then had to climb (those of us that were able... i.e. Marian and myself.....) over a fence!! The others took the long way round now by the time they came back round the restaurant wasn't just full but heaving. We did manage to get a table perched up on high stools close to the bar - Taylor's favourite place. We had a lovely lunch and sat and chatted and laughed. Then it was time to hike back down to the outlet we hadn't expected it to be so busy but it was mad. We almost got killed twice when crossing the supermarket car park and Janet did have to give someone one of her looks and that seemed to do the trick. When we got back down, Marian and I questioned the conversation of whether or not to go to London for a weekend together this year as it had taken us the best part of a day just to get back and forth for food, let alone shop! When back in the outlet I had to make a mad dash for the loo - well it was obviously not a good idea to have the hot choc so early in the day!!!! A quick look in a few more shops and back to the steps to get to the car. One step at a time and a huge queue behind us and we were back to the car. All safe and sound we returned home happy in the knowledge that we had enjoyed another day in good company!!!

I was gonna tell you about Donny, but time seems to have run out on me and lack of sleep due to the arrival of my 2nd grand daughter in the middle of the night, so I'll have to keep that for another time.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my most heartfelt thanks to my friends in guild: Vons W and M; Watsy, Taylor, Marian and Joycee - who have helped me through one of the worst years I have had to face this year and to say without their friendship and support I'd have probably gone Lady Ga Ga this year. That's it for another year folks c u on the flip side.

Sue xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Howells)

Junior Church

Hi, everyone. Can't believe another year has flown by so quickly! Although we have a small Junior Church our children are very loyal. We have waved goodbye to our older girls, but I am happy to say we have a new wave of 'little ones' joining us which means that we, as teachers, can experience all the wonderful stories once again through fresh and innocent eyes and so never get bored as the children see things quite differently - probably the way we were all intended to view them - with awe and amazement!

We have continued celebrating 'Family Service' on the first Sunday of the month, when any children present are encouraged to become involved with the worship and to help with collection, elements and giving out books.

We have celebrated all the festivals in Junior Church, **Candlemas**, when we made tea light holders. We had a lovely lesson to celebrate '**Fairtrade**' fortnight (and the eradication of poverty) week when we tasted Fairtrade food, looked at Traidcraft products (jewellery, gifts etc) and used a globe to stick flags on Fairtrade communities around the world. All the children came to realize how lucky we are. On **Mothering Sunday** we made gifts and presented all the ladies of the church with flowers. On **Good Friday** we joined in with the village 'Walk of Witness' and came back to our church for a lovely short service, hot cross buns and the annual egg decorating and 'Egg Rolling' down Church Hill. **Pentecost** was marked with 'Messy Church' (see below) and a Whitsun Tea and we had a little party in July before we broke up for the summer holidays.

We were glad to see everyone returning refreshed in September and celebrated **Open Church Sunday** by holding our ever-popular 'Messy Church' in the afternoon and used the items made to help decorate the church the following week for **Harvest**.

As usual, the children were wound up in the run up to **Christmas**, but we managed to fit in (and contain the children!!!) another Messy Church afternoon at the beginning of Advent, a decorating-the-Christmas-tree session, our annual **Nativity Play and Christingle Service** and then we (at least tried) to calm it all down by holding our **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve when we are always delighted to see so many village families come to enjoy a meaningful half hour and to celebrate the Christmas Story (and despite the freezing weather!)

A big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us throughout the year, a HUGE thank you to all parents and grandparents for bringing the children week after week and entrusting them to our care and a big, special thank you to all the children for coming along and brightening our Sunday mornings. It is a privilege to spend time with you and you certainly set us on the right note for the rest of the week! Love ya loads!

Deb and Mary

Messy Church

Once again we have, as a church, successfully held another four 'Messy Church' Sundays throughout 2010. On these days we cancel Junior Church in the morning, and instead, we have a wonderful family afternoon from 4pm 'til 6pm.

This is a great opportunity for us to throw our doors open wide and to extend an invitation to everyone, near and far, to come, as families to join us in a fun afternoon of messy crafts, singing, worship, drama, face painting and a tea (usually pizza, crisps, cakes etc) without there being any pressure to commit to coming to church services regularly (and its all for free!!!!).

This year we celebrated four festivals, the first one being 'Easter' which was held on Palm Sunday afternoon. The children made lots of Easter crafts that told the Easter story and that of new life.

This was followed by a 'Pentecost' celebration. Lots of activities were on offer as we celebrated the birth of the Church through the gift of the Holy Spirit and the journey of the first Christians. It was also lovely to be able to relax outside and the older children enjoyed just spending time together chatting in the sunshine. After the enjoyment of the crafts and the lovely short service we all went back into the hall for a lovely 'Whitsun Tea' provided by the Mothers Union, which was open to all church and non-church adults.

Our third Messy Church was held on 'Open Church Sunday'. The hall was full to bursting with 30+ children and their families. We used the theme of 'Creation' (the pizzas they made were eaten for tea) and lots of crafts were taken home and also used to decorate the seven church windows for harvest, the following week (- the world was created in 6 days plus one of rest = 7 windows !!!)

The worship was different in this messy church as we tried miming the story. I must say it was BRILLIANT! All the children were involved, from the older boys who held up the sky(!) right through to the little flowers 'growing' in the grass. Each child chose what they wanted to do as the story unfolded - totally impromptu - but I was surprised when the boys wanted to be flowers and not lions!

As the children responded so well to more time spent in a form of worship, the same principle was used for both the Advent Messy Church and for our Nativity Play. Everyone who turned up on the day dressed as a part that they wanted to play and as Ian told the story, so the children appeared. No fuss, no hassle - and no worry for the organizers!!!!

Our fourth Messy Church was held at Advent where we made crafts as we prepared for the birth of Jesus. The theme was God's gift of love through the birth of his Son and once again lots of children turned up. We continued the theme of God's love through our worship and decoration of our Christmas windows. Lots of props were made for the nativity Play plus lots of beautiful crafts taken home. After a time of worship in church, the children tucked in to a lovely tea.

Many thanks to all who prepare and create for each messy church and a huge thank you to all those that come along, the leaders, helpers, 'cooks' and washer-uppers - we need all of you there to make it a successful afternoon for so many children and their families. This is an important way forward in our village and it is nice to welcome so many families that don't normally come along to other services.

Deb and Mary

Traidcraft

St Barnabas continues to be a Fairtrade church. We now are using only Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar in the kitchen and I am running a stall after the Family Communion Service once a month and some parishioners now have regular orders. Some people also ordered Christmas cards in aid of the charity which further promoted the cause. All monies raised, from the stalls and cards, go directly back to the Christian charity 'Traidcraft' and therefore to the producers - last month we sent £180 back to Traidcraft.

During Fairtrade Fortnight (28th February - 13th March) we adopted 6th March as 'Fairtrade Sunday' where I had the monthly stall.

As a church, it is our Christian duty to love our fellow human beings around the globe - it is by buying Fairtrade goods (food, clothes, jewellery, footballs...) that we are making a huge difference to people in poorer countries: they can then afford to send their children to school (yes, despite their poverty they have to pay to go to school and buy their books); we are boosting the self-esteem of women by increasing their wages; they can buy labour saving devices for their businesses, e.g. a new electric kiln at Sri Sivam Pottery in India; and they have shares in their businesses, e.g. the more Divine chocolate bars we buy, the higher the value of the shares that the producers hold. The more we push the big supermarkets and shopping chains to sell Fairtrade the better - it's our buying that they take note of and sell accordingly.

This year I will be promoting the Fairtrade Easter Egg which is the only Christian Easter egg endorsed by the Church of England/Church in Wales so I am hoping these will be popular on my stall.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me raise money for Traidcraft - your monthly jar of marmalade or coffee is a great help. I really enjoy running the stalls, as does my mum Glenys (Phillips) and daughter Elinor.

Jaki Truscott
24th February 2011

Church Hall

I'm sure you are delighted as I am that the first phase of the renovation of our Church is, at last, almost complete. At present Tony and Antony are busy painting the hall and we are all enjoying the benefits of structural repairs and a more efficient heating system. During the last year, apart from one or two occasions, the hall has continued to be in regular use. Two Brownie packs, Mothers' Union, PCC, Junior Church, coffee mornings, church festivities, fundraising and hospitality as well as 'Messy (!!!) Church' activities for youngsters, all make full use of the hall. Indeed the hall plays a very important part in our outreach into the community, welcoming new members, both young and not-so-young to our family at coffee mornings, fayres and hospitality gatherings after many church services.

During the last few weeks the PCC has received many positive and complimentary comments about the high standards of decorative and structural improvements undertaken in the hall, and I hope that you will help us advertise the use of our hall as a meeting place, offering facilities suitable for a number of purposes e.g.

- Children's/Youth activities - sports, drama, youth club, dance, parties.
- Adult events - hospitality, coffee mornings, celebratory parties, tea dances, slimming and exercise groups, musical events, quizzes.
- Fundraising - craft fayres, produce stalls, auctions, sales of work, charity events.

Charges will be negotiated individually depending on the purpose for which the hall is hired.

Please contact Ian, myself, or any member of the PCC if you have any suggestions as to how we can make more use of our hall as a resource for income, and, importantly as a source for Christian outreach into the community.

Mair (Cornish)

Church & Hall Restoration

I am very pleased to report that the first phase of the rebuilding/restoring/refurbishing work to both the Church and the Church Hall, which has been continuing apace since early 2010, has now come to a very successful conclusion. It was back in June 2008 when Paul Bastian Associates (Chartered Building Surveyors) were first approached to undertake an inspection of both buildings with a view to preparing an Outline Report for Church Repair based on the Quinquennial Inspection Reports of November 2006. At that time the Restoration Fund only contained a modest amount of money, locally raised, but through the brilliant offices of (ex-Councillor and Mayor) Colin Hammacott a substantial grant was secured from the Welsh Assembly Government through its Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP) in February 2010, and this, coupled with a grant from the Church in Wales, allowed the PCC to give the go-ahead for more wide-ranging work to be undertaken.

The main priority was to make the entire building water-tight, so the "leaky" Hall chimneys were removed and the Hall was completely re-roofed, as, too, was the Chancel, with new guttering, down pipes, soffits and fascias being fitted (as witnessed by the before-and-after photos on the Notice Board!). Both window surrounds at the West End of the Church (extremely fragile) were very sympathetically and tastefully rebuilt.

The dampness, which had penetrated both the West End of the Church and Hall, has also been dealt with. In addition, funds became available to re-lay the Hall floor, 're-commission' the original "step" into the main porch, and, last, but by no means least, fit a new, high-efficiency gas boiler and central heating system (necessitating the laying of a new gas main to the Church). The PCC had to obtain a loan from Church in Wales to install gas central heating and we shall be working hard to pay this off. Now work is continuing on repainting and redecorating internally.

I should like to thank everyone for their patience and goodwill during the disruption of the past year, and especially Steve and Nigel of Bernard Lewis Contractors for their professionalism and care throughout the refurbishment work: I think at times they even enjoyed it! The Church Hall can now lay claim to being a true Community Facility, literally accessible to everyone. We can all be

proud that Christian Witness at St Barnabas, Waunarwydd has a secure future in the 21st century.

Antony Bidder

Music & Worship

'Come into His presence singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia'.....

What a wonderful way to worship God!

We draw ever closer to God through music, be it in hymns or worship songs.

We have increased our hymn and worship song repertoire since the addition of Complete Mission Praise' and hope to build on this in the coming year.

There are so many wonderful hymns/songs to learn
.....a new song every week? Now, there's a challenge.

We have had a few problems with the organ this past year, but with a trusty manual and a gifted engineer, all is well once more.

May we continue to explore the greatness of God through music and song.
Amen

Maureen (Cridland)

Lay Eucharistic Assistant

I have been privileged in administering the chalice at Holy Communion Services in Church and also in taking the Holy Sacrament to the sick and housebound in the Parish. In being able to receive Communion at home, these communicants are able to continue to feel part of the congregation of God's Church and it is obvious that they welcome and appreciate this.

Phyl Prevel

Pastoral Lay Visitors Report

Hello to all the travellers that walk the same road - and for those who do not, we look forward to making a detour in order to spend a little time with you.

We give thanks for this year, where we have made great progress in gelling as a team. Two team meetings were held with Ian at the helm, these meetings were to identify the needs of the Parish and how we could best serve the Community, and share the responsibility of visiting.

We welcome multi-skilled Chris Griffiths to the team who was Commissioned by the Bishop on Sunday 27th of February and received her licence. As Lay Worship Leader and now Pastoral Lay Visitor, Chris will be an asset to our team. May God bless her ministry.

After seeing Phyl administering the Eucharist within the community I felt so humbled and privileged to witness her sensitivity and gentleness and the way people respond to her. It reaffirms to me that she has been called to this ministry. Many that we visit ask us to pray for loved ones and friends, all strongly believing in the power of prayer. Their interaction and still feeling part of the body of the church is very important.

On several occasions two or three of us (Jen Phyllis and I) have shared Communion during a visit. It has really felt that we have taken the Church into their home and we have been told how much they enjoyed having a group Communion.

Antony has spent quality time with Mrs Esther Vickery at Ty Waunarlwydd and helped her through the hectic time of her birthday, taking the media pressures away from her.

Many of our elderly members have found it impossible to make it to Church this winter owing to illness or bad weather. We have kept in touch by visiting or telephoning, and offering home Communion if so desired.

We still maintain a wonderful relationship with local Care Homes and have excellent relationships with Staff and Residents, and Ian still administers the Eucharist monthly to all the Care Homes. At present there are major alterations at Ty Victoria and at Ashgrove. The Church Carol singers have a warm welcome

at the homes at Christmas and invitations were given for the Carols and Festivities Tea.

Sadly we lost dear friends this year and we pray for their family and friends. There are many who are sick and receiving treatment at this time. We pray that they will be surrounded by God's healing love.

We are so privileged for the opportunity to support, listen and to be worthy of the trust we are given.

Thank you all for being our eyes and ears and keeping us informed and updated of any illness or bereavements in the Parish. Please pray for us and ask for God to guide us and give us grace to be kind caring and trustworthy loving and willing to follow where he leads us.

Serving the Parish

Margaret (on behalf of the rest of the team):

Antony, Phyl, Jen and Chris

From your Ordinand (!)

I'm just coming to the end of my first year as an Ordinand and before going on to tell you a bit about it want to say a very heartfelt thank you for the support, encouragement and prayers - it has been such a comfort and blessing.

Having overcome my homesickness for St Barnabas, my placement at St Nicholas on the Hill & St Jude's has gone very well and I have received lots of help and advice and I am really pleased with the feedback - even for my sermons!

The academic work has been something of a challenge but fascinating.....it would be perfect if I could just go along and listen but not have to produce essays which are supposed to prove that I have understood it all.

Now I'm really looking forward to spending Easter and the summer back at St Barnabas and catching up with everybody

Julie (Wagstaff)

Lay Worship Leaders

Lord, in this sacred place where even the stones speak of your name, help me to be still and know that I am enfolded in your love. (Iona Prayer Book)

Following the Lay Worship Leader training last year, we looked forward to your support and encouragement as we undertook to lead non-Eucharistic worship. You did not disappoint us, thank you.

Our first service was on Trinity Sunday where, included within a form of Morning Prayer, we looked at the aspects and characters of the Holy Trinity by voicing excerpts from *The Shack* by William Paul Young. This gave us an opportunity of trying to visualise the Holy Trinity in a creative and imaginative way, through the medium of fiction.

In August we embarked on a 'very small retreat', using material from Joyce Denham's *Celtic Isles*. Not leaving our seats, we visited the isles of Aran, Iona and Lindisfarne, experiencing Celtic-style worship, interspersed with stillness and silence.

We continued the Celtic theme in October where we learned more about Saints Enda, Columba and Aidan who are credited with establishing monasteries on Aran, Iona and Lindisfarne. We learned how they turned their backs on worldly wealth, status and political power and through prayer and service to others, dedicated their lives to God.

We have felt blessed by the experiences of meeting together, researching materials and constructing these services and we believe the congregation has positively received them. We are delighted that Julie has been accepted for ordination training and we continue to keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Phyl, Chris (and Julie)

Church Accounts 2010

RECEIPTS

GENERAL FUND AS AT 31/12/2009	1507.03
DIRECT GIVING-PLANNED	15321.48
DIRECT GIVING-UNPLANNED	2851.70
GIFT AID	166.50
GIFT DAY	380.00
INLAND REVENUE	2570.10
RENTS	505.00
DONATIONS	2335.48
FUND RAISING	608.08
200 CLUB	900.00
QUIZ	75.00
SOCIAL EVENTS	86.70
SALES	455.23
WEDDINGS/FUNERAL FEES	1266.00
BAPTISM/WEDDING COLLECTIONS	308.80
RESTORATION APPEAL	1556.87
CHARITIES	651.11
LENTEN LUNCHESES	77.10
BANK INTEREST	18.15
GRANTS	60189.00
CHURCH IN WALES LOAN	3000.00
SWALEC REFUND	600.00
CHURCH/GRAVEYARD ACCOUNT AS AT 31/12/2009	2231.70
RESTORATION APPEAL ACCOUNT AS AT 31/12/2009	19817.75
TOTAL	117478.78

Church Accounts 2010

PAYMENTS

PARISH SHARE	20822.00
VICARS EXPENSES	1364.31
WATER RATES	733.49
ELECTRICITY/GAS	2519.80
INSURANCE	751.03
REPAIRS AND MAINTENAINCE	354.93
ALTAR REQUISITES	58.70
ORGANIST	400.00
PRINTING/STATIONERY	353.48
BOOKS	141.81
JUNIOR/MESSY CHURCH	220.51
200 CLUB	450.00
GRAVEYARD MAINTENAINCE	134.98
LENTERN LUNCHESES	23.46
RAFFLES	20.00
RESTORATION WORK	68973.57
SOCIAL EVENTS	104.01
CHARITIES	1140.76
SUNDRIES	227.40
GENERAL FUND AS AT 31/12/2010	2307.19
CHURCH/GRAVEYARD ACCOUNT AS AT 31/12/2010	2098.52
RESTORATION APPEAL ACCOUNT AS AT 31/12/2010	14606.40
	117806.35
UNCASHED CHEQUES AS AT 31/12/2010 -MINUS	-327.57
TOTAL	117478.78

General Fund/Graveyard Account/Restoration Appeal

Receipts and Payments for the Period Ending 31/12/2010

RECEIPTS	2010	2009
VOLUNTARY INCOME		
Planned giving	15487.98	15732.68
Loose collection	3160.50	2538.72
Donations	4272.35	3052.99
For mission	651.11	997.30
Tax refunds	2570.10	5032.08
Legacy Gifts received	0.00	0.00
Grants	63189.00	0.00
GENERATED INCOME		
Money raising	2202.11	4706.64
Fees	1266.00	1731.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	523.15	705.29
OTHER INCOME	600.00	0.00
Total Current Account Income	93922.30	34496.70

Continued on next page.....

**General Fund/Graveyard Account/Restoration
AppealContinued from last page**

PAYMENTS	2010	2009
SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY-Parish share	20822.00	19957.00
Parochial expenses of clerics	1349.31	1714.94
Other	15.00	50.00
PARISH ACTIVITIES		
Maintenance of services	458.70	1095.44
General Parish Expenses	722.69	1270.82
CHURCH PROPERTY		
Maintenance of Church	4359.25	5110.38
Maintenance of other property	134.98	99.99
Exceptional expenditure	68973.57	920.00
GRANTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT		
Mission Parish	220.51	148.57
Mission Home/World	1140.76	1416.23
OTHER RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Capital payments	0.00	23550.48
Cost of Money Raising	597.47	23551.48
		23552.48
TOTAL PAYMENTS	98794.24	23553.48
BANK BALANCES AS AT 01/01/2010	23556.48	23554.48
Plus uncashed cheques 31/12/2010	327.57	23555.48
BANK BALANCES AS AT 31/12/2010	19012.11	23556.48

Churchyard Account(Restricted Funds)

	2010	2009
BANK ACCOUNT	AS AT 31/12/2009	AS AT 31/12/2008
RECEIPTS		
Garden of Remembrance/Graveyard	0.00	375.00
Interest	1.80	27.78
TOTAL INCOME	2233.50	2331.69
PAYMENTS		
Grounds	134.98	99.99
Capital Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Bank account as at 31/12/2010	2098.52	2231.70
TOTAL PAYMENTS	2233.50	2331.69
RESTORATION APPEAL ACCOUNT(Restricted Funds)		
BANK ACCOUNT	AS AT 31/12/2009	AS AT 31/12/2008
	19817.75	18478.76
RECEIPTS		
Capital Income	64745.87	2247.48
Transfer from General Fund	0.00	0.00
Interest	16.35	11.51
TOTAL RECEIPTS	84579.97	20737.75
PAYMENTS		
Maintenance of Property	0.00	0.00
Transfer to General Fund	1000.00	0.00
Capital Expenditure	68973.57	920.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	69973.57	920.00
BANK BALANCE	AS AT 31/12/2010	AS AT 31/12/2009
	14606.40	19817.75

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at Period Ending	31/12/2010	31/12/2009
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES	2010	2009
Current account(General Fund)	2307.19	1507.03
Restoration Appeal (Building Fund)	14606.40	19817.75
Church/Graveyard Account	2098.52	2231.70
 Total Bank Account Balance	 19012.11	 23556.48
CURRENT DEBTORS		
	0.00	0.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Swalec not paid as at 31/12/2010	0.00	0.00
Swansea and Brecon DBF (Parish Share)	0.00	0.00
Church in Wales (Loan)	3000.00	
Total liabilities	3000.00	0.00
 Hall Furniture/Kitchen Equipment /Television/Vestry Furniture/Sound System Replacement Value	 5000.00	 5000.00
 Garden Equipment/Lawnmower/Strimmer-Replace- ment Value	 900.00	 900.00

It should be noted that the church building/hall, church contents and the graveyard are held in trust by the representative body of the Church in Wales

Budget 2011/Actual 2010

	Budget	Actuals	Budget
RECEIPTS	2010	2010	2011
VOLUNTARY INCOME			
Planned giving	17000.00	15487.98	17000.00
Loose collection	2500.00	3160.50	3200.00
Donations	4000.00	4272.35	2500.00
For mission	1000.00	651.11	1000.00
Tax refunds	4000.00	2570.10	4000.00
Legacy Gifts received	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants	15000.00	63189.00	2200.00
GENERATED INCOME			
Money raising	400.00	2202.11	4000.00
Fees	2100.00	1266.00	1800.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	750.00	523.15	700.00
OTHER INCOME	0.00	600.00	0.00
TOTAL	46750.00	93922.30	36400.00

Continued on next page.....

Budget 2011/Actual 2010.....Continued from last page

	Budget	Actuals	Budget
	2010	2010	2011
PAYMENTS			
SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY			
Parish share	21000.00	20822.00	21500.00
Parochial Expenses of Clerics	1800.00	1349.31	1600.00
Other	0.00	15.00	100.00
PARISH ACTIVITIES			
Maintenance of Services	1100.00	458.70	600.00
General Parish Expenses	1000.00	722.69	700.00
CHURCH PROPERTY			
Maintenance of church	5000.00	4359.25	4000.00
Maintenance of other property	1000.00	134.98	1000.00
Exceptional expenditure	32000.00	68973.57	18200.00
GRANTS & OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT			
Mission Parish	300.00	220.51	800.00
Mission Home/World	1200.00	1140.76	1200.00
OTHER RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Capital payments	0.00	0.00	2000.00
Cost of money raising	700.00	597.47	700.00
Total Payments	65100.00	98794.24	52400.00

*"Thanks to Dave (Jones) for compiling and typesetting this report -
and to the Eastmoor Resource Centre for printing it"*

Ian - Vicar

