



# The Church of St Philip- Westbrook

(Anglican Diocese of Liverpool & Methodist District of Liverpool)  
Westbrook Centre, Westbrook Warrington WA5 8UE

## *Ministers' AGM Report for 2009*

It has been good to review the ups and downs of last year as we look forward positively to the future with fresh enthusiasm and impetus stemming from our new church vision:

### *St Philip's Church, Westbrook (growing, knowing, going)*

Building on God's love for us all, we are committed through effective and enabling leadership to:

- be growing disciples of Jesus Christ
- be nurturing passionate spirituality through prayer and worship infused by the Holy Spirit
- be God our Father's representatives bringing love and joy and wholeness to our families, our neighbourhood, our places of work, and the wider world.

‘Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.  
The old life is gone; the new life has begun.’  
(The Bible: 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Our vision lends itself to being split into 4 main categories: **Leadership, Discipleship, Worship and Prayer, Outreach and Service**; and I will use these as headings to reflect on 2009.

#### **Leadership**

Perhaps the most obvious change that happened in 2009 was that we lost 3 of our 4 paid staff members in Malcolm, Fiona and David – 2 of them moving on unexpectedly early – leaving only Martin as our part-time minister. Malcolm retired effectively at Easter 2009, Fiona was seconded away to work more broadly in the Circuit and David's experience was recognised by the bishop who encouraged him to explore a move 2 or 3 years before he would normally move on from St.Philip's. Their spirituality, enthusiasm and hard work will be greatly missed. Their moving on equates to a reduction of 70% in paid 'staff' time and has left Martin and our Standing Committee having to try to take up the slack and make significant adjustments to the ministry we could offer. This process is still ongoing and will inevitably affect the pace at which we can move forward with our vision and new initiatives. However God has been in all of the changes and continues to work through our members to grow his church here at St.Philip's.

In some ways the changes have simplified and clarified our leadership and management structure as a church. We are now clear that Leadership rests with me, governance with our Partnership (Church) Council, management with our Standing Committee (Stewards, Churchwardens, Partnership Council Secretary and Treasury Team plus the minister), and strategic thinking, pump priming and envisioning are priorities for our Shared Ministry Team.

Developing Leadership more broadly in the church will be a particular focus for our church in 2010/11.

### **Discipleship**

At the beginning of 2009 we had 2 fortnightly midweek faith exploration / bible study groups – Emmaus and the Tuesday morning fellowship group. Having successfully run an Alpha course once again, many participants wanted to continue with a fortnightly study group which became the ‘Obvius’ group. A further Alpha course is planned to run after Easter 2010. We also ran a Journeys faith exploration course which was also our adult confirmation class.

Our schoolwork continued in St.Philip’s, Callands and Old Hall primary schools. In addition to my assemblies, Paul Caine from the Seedlings Trust takes regular assemblies at Callands and St. Philip’s schools and runs a lunchtime Good News Club at St.Philip’s for Juniors. We once again saw a good number of children from a variety of schools confirmed in 2009.

Our popular children and young people’s work went through a very positive reorganisation with the creation of ‘JAM’, Jesus And Me, and this will continue to develop in 2010.

### **Worship and Prayer**

2009 began with our wonderful celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church building with some old friends – and a previous vicar – joining us for the celebrations. Other highlights have included our well attended school and parade services with 400 attending our Harvest festival. We celebrated Back to Church Sunday and saw some new faces and old friends at that service.

As our community continues to grow and become established we find more new members find a warm welcome at St.Philip’s each year. Our special service in November, celebrating all the groups which make up the life of St.Philip’s and giving everyone a chance to hear about them and join them at ‘stalls’ in the hall was a great success and something that we hope to repeat annually.

In 2009 our Reader in training, Ian Stranack, took an increasing role in leading worship and preaching and we look forward to him being licensed by the Bishop in 2010.

Our Lent theme of prayer resulted in a weekly Prayer Meeting being set up, and we continue to explore different ways of building up the prayer life of our church.

### **Outreach and Service**

Our new Rainbow Garden and noticeboards have opened up the church more to our community and improved our communication with them. Our new website has also resulted in positive church enquiries. The major ‘Festival of Cycling’ also drew crowds of people and our NewBorns group has met a need for a number of first-time Mums.

Our Pastoral Visitors continue to do sterling work supporting church members and members of the community in their times of sickness and other need, and they organise the programme for our popular women’s fellowship group, Ladybirds. Our men’s fellowship group, Network 72, went from strength to strength organising many enjoyable evenings and days out (including the eventful Snowdon trip!) as well as major Refresh social events for the whole church.

For our Young People the Choices Youth gathering continues to grow in popularity with many friends of our church young people attending.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

Reaching our community of 20 000 souls remains a challenge and an opportunity, but our Christmas float got round the whole parish again this year with invitations to our Christmas services thanks to many good volunteers.

Our church finances remain a concern with outgoings of over £50 000 continuing to exceed our income. Investigations into our leaking roof resulted in a survey which recommends that almost the whole roof be replaced in terms of tiles, wooden batons and felt at a cost of apx. £10 000. We would like to have the financial confidence

to be able to appoint a new curate or lay worker at a cost of apx. £12 000 per year but that is not possible with our current financial position.

We are looking at new building plans to give us a larger church and better storage and flexibility, but again finance remains the limiting factor here.

Our Giving in Grace campaign later this year will give us all the opportunity to re-examine our giving of our time, talents and money to the church in recognition of the grace and blessings that God has given us.

St.Philip's is a great place to be and to belong and our challenge is really to spread the good news about our fantastic church so that more people experience the family of God here and so can encounter our Lord for themselves.

### **Thank you!**

Finally and most importantly I want to thank everyone who makes up the life of St. Philips church, particularly those whose work behind the scenes in caring, organising, cleaning and contributing to the smooth running of worship and the church in general whose work can seem to go unnoticed because it happens so efficiently and without fuss. Every member of St.Philip's is precious to God and has a part to play in the life and witness of our God's church here in Westbrook. It is God who builds his Church, a Church which we are constantly reminded is made up of people - not bricks and mortar or even roof tiles! We are all privileged to be his children and fellow-workers in the task of building up his Church and serving our community in this place where our Lord has called us to be according to his good will and purpose.

One with you in faith, prayer and love,

*Martin*

*Rev. Martin Thorpe, Vicar (Church of England) and Associate Minister  
(Methodist)*

Day to day management control of the Church is exercised by the standing committee: Rev Martin Thorpe, Mr Richard Clark, Mr John Legg, Mr Jon D'Arcy, Mrs Chris Ralston and Mr Stuart Molyneux.

### **Structure, Management and Governance**

St Philip Westbrook is a local Ecumenical Partnership between the Methodist Church and the Church of England. It is formally constituted through a "Sharing Agreement" dated 27.1.89.

The purpose and function of the Partnership Council (PC) [formerly known as the Joint Church Council (JCC)] shall be to provide the means of consultation between the two Churches on all matters in connection with this agreement (ie The Sharing Agreement ) and to provide and exercise such measures of supervision and regulations as may be required to promote and facilitate the full and beneficial use of the Worship centre for the purpose of the agreement.

The respective Church Councils of The Methodist and Anglican Churches meet within the meetings of the PC.

All finances are held in common.

The PC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PC operates three subcommittees: The Standing Committee, Children and Young People's Committee, and Shared Ministry Team. Membership comprises: -

**Standing Committee:** Rev Martin Thorpe, Mr Richard Clark, Mr John Legg, Mr Jon D'Arcy, Mrs Chris Ralston and Mr Stuart Molyneux.

**Children and Young People's Committee:** Rev Martin Thorpe, Tina Cross, George Oliver, Jayne Molyneux, Anne Fox, Jayne Bradley, Denise Brocklehurst, Karen Parry, Karen Bennett, Sharon Duffy, Pauline Thorpe, Mavis Clark and all children/young people leaders and helpers.

**Shared Ministry Team:** Rev Martin Thorpe, Nicky Lees, Ian Stranack, Lynne Wright, George Oliver, Mark Turner, June Dunning.

PC members are made aware of their trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessments, and child protection procedures.

#### **Risk Assessments:**

To identify their major risks, the PC undertook a programme of risk assessments. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimize their impact on the life of the church. Action in the main areas of risk has been taken as follows.

#### **Financial Risk**

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PC on a regular basis. The investments held by the PC are also reviewed on a regular basis by the Finance Sub-committee who report to the PC. The PC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling.

#### **Health and Safety**

A review has been undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this field. The PC has been appraised of the risks and the necessary compliance requirements and these have been complied with. Specifically procedures for recording accidents have been put in place.

#### **Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection**

A review has been undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this field. The PC has been appraised of the risks and the necessary compliance requirements and these have been complied with.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

At St Philips we have a mission statement that confirms our mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Mission Statement is 'Knowing, Growing, Going'. When planning our activities for the year, the PC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

Our objectives for 2009 were to provide the following public benefits:

#### **To Love the Lord Our God and be Open to Him through**

- Regular public worship open to all
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and helping people who have asked for assistance with prayer

#### **To Love our Neighbours and be open to them**

- Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved
- Taking religious assemblies in St Philips, Old Hall and Callands Schools
- Provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

#### **To love each other through fellowship**

- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- To meet with our ecumenical partners in the town

## **Achievements and Performance**

The PC is delighted with its achievements against its objectives set out in the previous section. The following reports clarify each group's achievements against the above objectives: -

### *The Churchwardens' Fabric Report*

1. This report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish church is made by the Churchwardens pursuant to s.5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.
2. A quinquennial report on the fabric of the parish church has not been received.
3. The building is part of the large complex that is St Philip Westbrook Church of England (Aided) Primary School. The building is relatively new, being approximately 20 years old, and has no significant defects. The roof currently has a minor leak and quotes are being obtained with a view to undertaking remedial works.
4. The church interacts well with the school and there are no reported maintenance issues.
5. There were no significant additions to the goods of the church in 2009.
6. No serious health and safety concerns have been raised with regard to the structure or its fixtures and fittings, nor to any items of furniture or equipment.
7. The churchwardens wish to thank those members of the congregation, particularly John Legg and Richard Clarke, who have assisted with general maintenance work; we also thank Network 72 for the development of a Rainbow Garden in the church grounds.

### *Wardens' and Stewards' Report 2009*

#### **Introduction**

This report aims to summarise the rôle of the Wardens and Stewards of St Philip's Church and Parish during 2009, and the matters relevant to their ministry.

John Legg has now served his first full year with us, while 2009 has also been Chris Ralston's last full year – each as Methodist Steward. Stuart has until the 2011 AGM, Jon until the 2012 AGM to serve as Wardens.

The Churchwardens are elected each year by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure and the Church Representation Rules; the Stewards are each elected at the Annual General Meeting (or between AGMs appointed by the Partnership Council, subject to the confirmation of the subsequent AGM), for a term of three years. Both are eligible for re-election until they have served a maximum continuous term of six years, when they must take a break before they can be elected again.

The Wardens and Stewards – in slightly different ways – provide a link between St Philip's and their respective (denominational) Church structures (legally, Churchwardens are officers of the Bishop), as well as exercising a leadership rôle within St Philip's.

Churchwardens and Church Stewards play a central leadership rôle within the Church, as members of the Partnership Council and of the Standing Committee. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring the offerings made during Sunday services are kept safe, counted, documented, and arrangements made to bank them. They are responsible for informing the Archdeacon, or the Bishop, (or the Circuit Superintendent) if they feel there is anything seriously untoward happening at the Church. Above all, they work in partnership with the Minister to further the aims and work of the Church.

#### **2009**

##### *Positive Events*

A growth in numbers – albeit small – attending Sunday services has been a clear positive, as has the way that JAM (Jesus and Me), our Children and Young People's activity on Sunday mornings, has developed.

Stability in the "lay leadership" team, with a growing sense of shared purpose, as we become more focussed on Mission, has been a big benefit. This has enabled us – on the maintenance front – to support the processes whereby the PC has implemented formal Internal Financial Controls, and thus get more transparent control over the finances of the Church (rather boring stuff from the outside, but absolutely vital).

## Negative Events

For the Church – the loss, first of Malcolm, and then of David, together with the demands on Martin’s time supporting St James’ during their interregnum, means we have much less clergy input than in the past. This provides us with an opportunity to develop lay ministry and leadership in the work of the Church (although that suffered a blow, with the re-deployment of Fiona): that means far more people have to become directly involved in one or more aspects of the Church’s life.

Also negative at origin, although in some respects an opportunity as much as a threat, and leading to positive outcomes in due course, is the realisation of the financial state of the Church, as detailed elsewhere in this Annual Report.

The other negative event – and the only significant matter in relation to the fabric and property of the Church to report – is the leaking roof. A number of you will have seen the strategically-placed buckets in Church from time to time. We are in the process of getting three quotes for the work needed to remedy this.

## Public Benefit

In the exercise of our responsibilities, the Wardens and Stewards have sought to safeguard the property and interests of the Church, without adverse effects on the wider community. In allowing and encouraging new developments (particularly the *Newborns club*), and the continuance with existing activities (such as *Little Fishes* or *Friday at Choices*), we have provided benefit to the community beyond normal Sunday worship. Both in these activities, and in our normal Sunday worship provision, we provide public benefit, including but not limited to: opportunity to worship God and carry out many of the responsibilities Christians feel obliged to take on; fellowship and friendship; the availability of pastoral support in times of need. All these are available to both members and non-members of the Church, including occasional visitors.

## *Deanery Synod Report*

Deanery Synod Lay Representatives: Claire Stranack, Lynne Wright.

The Deanery is an important part of the structure of the Church of England whose role is to promote joint pastoral action and the best possible distribution of ministry, and to provide for the pastoral care of the priests serving in each area of the diocese.

Warrington Deanery is organised into 4 clusters as follows: **Town Centre**; St. Barnabus, St. Elphin, St. Mark, Holy Trinity; **Orford**; St. Ann, St. Andrew and St. Margaret & All Hallows, **East Warrington**; The Church of the Ascension, The Church of the Transfiguration, The Church of the Resurrection and Christ Church **West Warrington**; St. James, St. Philip, St. Paul and St. Mary.

The Synod is the decision making body of the Deanery and it meets 3 times per year. Each Church is represented by its clergy and two Lay representatives who are appointed for a 3-year term.

During this year we have worked, talked and prayed hard over the Deanery Mission Plan. As a Deanery we have been tasked with working out how to maintain and even grow the Church in Warrington while absorbing the loss of 2 clergy posts from 13 in 2006 to 11 by 2011. On the plus side, there is funding for Lay workers. Due to the importance and immediacy of this task, the majority of the Deanery Synod meetings have been devoted to this.

We hosted the October Deanery Synod at St. Philips. In addition to the work on the Deanery Mission Plan, we also heard a report on the General Synod and also had 2 presentations. The first was about the work of the Children’s Society in Warrington and the second about the forthcoming changes to vetting and barring procedures.

At an even more local level, we have been meeting as a Cluster sub group of the Deanery Synod to work towards understanding how the 4 Parishes in West Warrington and their congregations can operate with 3 incumbents for the 4 parishes. This will involve a good deal of prayer, sensitivity and soul-searching.

2010 will be a challenging year. If you have any general questions about what happens at Deanery Synod or if you have any comments or concerns about the Deanery, Cluster of the Mission Plan, please feel free to speak to me or any of the other representatives.

Claire Stranack

# Treasurer's Report

Page 1

**PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL OF  
St.Philip Westbrook  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
For the year ended 31 December 2009  
General (Restricted &Unrestricted) Fund Receipts & Payments Account**

Receipts	2009		2008	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>				
<b>Regular Giving</b>				
Tax efficient planned giving	27,652		20,779	
Income tax recovered	23,598		0	
Other Planned Giving (non gift aid)	3,568		8,031	
Collections and other giving	4,129		5,496	
		<u>58,947</u>		<u>34,306</u>
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>				
Donations	<u>5,618</u>		<u>1,509</u>	
		<u>5,618</u>		<u>1,509</u>
<b>Receipts from activities for generating funds</b>				
Fund raising	615		3,603	
Vicarage costs re imbursment(telephone)	324			
Curates house reimbursment(telephone)	356			
		<u>1,295</u>		<u>3,603</u>
<b>Receipts from Church activities</b>				
Fees	401		316	
		<u>401</u>		<u>316</u>
<b>Receipts from investments</b>				
Bank & CBF interest	363		1,044	
		<u>363</u>		<u>1,044</u>
<b>Other receipts</b>				
Exceptional income			388	
Tea & coffee	387			
		<u>387</u>		<u>388</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>67,011</u>		<u>41,166</u>

**Payments****Church activities**

Costs of generating voluntary receipts	799	85
Circuit share	9,460	
Diocesan parish share	19,128	29,101
Church running expenses	681	864
Vicars expenses	1,434	1,144
Curates expenses	1,261	542
Costs of vicarage	2,501	1,513
costs of cuates house	9,960	6,301
Cost of services	566	1,300
Baptism	386	
CYP/Youth/JAM	505	441
Printing and stationery	992	780
Community Development Worker	52	
Training & development	1,038	1,255
Bank charges	57	1,072
misc	1,102	
donations	1,152	3,645
Social activities/gifts		174
Church maintenance		411

**Total Payments**51,07248,628**Excess receipts over payments**15,938(7,462)

Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2009

24,283

Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2009

40,221

**PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL OF  
St.Philip Westbrook  
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
at 31 December 2009**

	2009 £	2008 £
<b>Cash Funds</b>		
Bank current accounts		
Cooperative bank	12,762	4,675
CCLA Deposit Fund	19,292	9,122
CFB deposit fund	8,166	8,765
Yorkshire bank	0	1,722
Total bank current and deposit accounts	<u>40,221</u>	<u>24,283</u>
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b> (all in respect of unrestricted funds)		
Gift aid tax claim 2008( submitted Dec 2009)	5,600	12,185
	<u>5,600</u>	<u>12,185</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors	-2,327	
	<u>-2,327</u>	<u>0</u>
Total assets	43,494	36,468

**NOTES:**

- The financial statements of the Partnership Council ( PC) have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:  
Moveable church furnishings held by the church-wardens on special trust for the PC and which require a faculty for their disposal.
- The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PC members.
- There are no payments to missions and overseas relief agencies .
- St Philips have supported the following: Seedlings Trust £500, St Philips Cof E Aided Primary School (£202) Warrington West Churches (£200)
- Claims for income tax refunds are dealt with by the Diocese, who charge 5%, for keeping records, checking and submitting claims. claims on behalf of St.Philips Westbrook.  
A claim for 2008 has been submitted. A claim for 2009 is being prepared, 08/02/10, and will be submitted as soon as possible.
- The Partnership Council incorporates the Parochial Church Council and the Methodist Church Council of St Philip Westbrook which bodies hold their finances in common.
- The accounts have been examined and approved by I Leadbetter.

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf

**The Revd Martin Thorpe  
PCC Chairman**

**Mr John Legg**

## Partnership Council Report 2009

Voting members for this year, elected at the AGM April 09

<u>Church of England (PCCreps)</u>	<u>Methodist (MCC reps)</u>	<u>Additional JCC reps</u>	<u>Elected April 2009</u>
Stuart Molyneux (W)	Christine Ralston (Std)	Nicky Lees	Tina Cross
John D`Arcy (W)	John Legg (Std)		Karen Parry
Claire Stranack (DS)	Helen Bateman		Miranda Lomas
Lynne Wright (DS)	George Oliver (PE)		Richard Clark
	June Dunning (PE)		Mark Turner
			Chris Duffy

Methodist Circuit Steward (Superintendent's representative to the PC) Ray Hodges

The PC has met on 6 occasions since the AGM in April 2009, and summarised below is a brief list of matters that have been discussed.

- **Rainbow Garden** This was completed during the year by volunteers, organised by Network 72, and is now a focal point within the church area.
- **Joint Use Agreement** Several meetings have taken place to bring together the necessary documentation to complete the signing of the agreement.
- **Finance Group** The group has met throughout the year and produced the annual accounts for 2009 which have been submitted to the examiner. In addition the group has prepared and introduced several internal financial controls IFC.
- **Giving in Grace** (GIG) The SMT are planning to implement GIG in May 2010
- **Children and Young People** Jam worship for young people has developed throughout the year and has been well supported with new volunteers.
- **Back to Church** A special service was organised and well attended, attracting new members.
- **Health and Safety** A policy is now prepared and displayed in the vestry.
- **Bible Study Groups** Several groups have been established throughout the year, with a programme of groups planned for the Lent period 2010.
- **Curate departure** During the end of the year we unfortunately lost David & Monica who during their short period of time organised and established many groups / procedure including a Welcome Team / Church Preparation / Cleaning Teams
- **Community Worker** The appointment of a Community worker increased the number of groups within church and improved our relationship with the community it was unfortunate the person is post resigned and to date has not been replaced.
- **Vision** The SMT developed a Mission and Ministry @ St Philip`s- Re Shaping growth and Development. It was agreed that leadership development will be the key for the next 12 months.
- **Church / School / Community Rooms** Several meetings took place to identify the needs of each area if and when we decide to redesign the building.
- **Charity** Following several meetings the SC agreed and successfully formed a charity called Euonia Warrington to be used to apply for grants / funding etc

Richard Clark (Sec)

## *Partnership Enablers Report 2009*

June Dunning and I (George Oliver) are your Partnership Enablers.

The Partnership Enablers role is one which has been identified within the Warrington Methodist Circuit to make things better.

It is a privilege to represent you in our Church as we explore how to `partner` with other Churches in the area.

When the Partnerships were initially set up we were positioned in the North Partnership. The other partnerships in Warrington had more than one Methodist church in them and the objective was for them to form one partnership council to join these churches together.

In the North we had no other Methodist Church to partner with. I suppose we are already a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) and so you could say we already are a Partnership between Methodism and the Anglican Church. To support this initiative we changed the name of our governing group from the Joint Church Council to the Partnership Council in line with others in the circuit.

Just recently ,on your behalf, June and I conducted a review of our `one church partnership` for the circuit, and the main point we made in the review presentation was that we live in West Warrington and so if we are to partner with anyone it should be with the other Churches in West Warrington.

So our aim is now to start conversations with the other Churches in the West to explore possibilities.

To this end recently, lots of us from St Philips attended the Ash Wednesday service held in St Mary's (Great Sankey) which was organised by Churches Together in West Warrington -- and later this year the Churches in the West will be organising a Summer Festival which will give further opportunities to develop stronger relationships in the West.

In the coming year the Warrington Methodist Circuit which is in the Liverpool District will change. The probably is that the circuit will be enlarged by joining with Widnes and possibly other circuits to the North.

This has been our first year since the LEP was formed that we have been without Methodist Ministerial Leadership at St Philips. Ray Hodges a senior circuit steward who worships at what was Malcolm Atherton (our last Methodist minister's) church in Padgate now represents us at circuit leadership meetings and attends our Partnership Council meetings with a lot of enthusiasm -- Ray we love working with you and thanks for being with us.

During the year we also had the pleasure of Fiona Jenkins's presence as our part time community worker. Fiona taught us a lot in her time with us and her skills and gifts are now being put to good use in a new position with circuit wide responsibilities. Fiona is now still active in Warrington West and has represented St Philips recently at Liverpool Cathedral talking about our Rainbow garden and other `environment` improvement projects.

So there you have it, the `noughties` have gone and have a whole new decade to go at.

Our vision for the next five years is that we are aiming to grow in our Christian faith by getting to know God better so that we can go and pass on the Good news to the 20,000 other souls who share this patch in the north west of Warrington with us.

We look forward to make this happen with your support.

June Dunning and George Oliver.

## *Shared Ministry Team Report. (SMT)*

The SMT was commissioned on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006 following about 18 months of training by Barry and Mavis who still return every January to review how we are getting on.

The original team included Richard Laybourne now exiled to Scotland, Anne Purcell now evangelising New Zealand, Malcolm Atherton retired to Crewe, leaving Anglican Vicar and Associate Methodist Minister Martin Thorpe, Anglican Reader in training Ian Stranack, Nicky Lees, Chaplain at Liverpool Airport and, been here from the start, St Philiper, Lynne Wright, June Dunning, Mark Turner and me George Oliver. David Eastwood joined us, injected something real Spirit, and then buzzed off to be Rector of St Helens.

Our purpose for being here is to equip and enable others, to look for gaps in our ministry and fill them, to support others in faith, to strengthen connections in our community and neighbourhoods, and to celebrate being the church of St Philips so that others wonder what we are up to and come and have a look.

The high point of this year was our 24 hours at Loyola Hall when under the facilitation of Martin and David and the influence of the Spirit we figured out that our sole purpose for the next 5 years is to grow people of faith, get to know God so well that we have to go and tell others the good news which blesses us, satisfied us and makes us happy.

George Oliver for the SMT.

PS – You get a chance to meet us most Sunday's but look out for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service when we take charge for Songs of Praise!!

## *Pastoral Care Team 2009*

Pastoral care and service to our community remains very important. The nursing homes in the parish receive regular visits from Bob Gow and John Summerfield who take communion in to the residents monthly and the pastoral care team visit the Ullswater Suite at Callands Court. The Pastoral Team continues to take Communion to the sick and housebound in the parish.

The Pastoral Team held 2 Coffee Mornings during the year, raising money for Christian Aid in May 2009 and Action for Children and The Warrington Peace Centre in November 2009. Our next coffee morning is May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The Team continues to make visits to the sick (at home or in hospital), elderly, anyone unable to come to Church or who would just like to chat to someone, perhaps at a time of real need.

In December 2009 we sent out Christmas Cards as usual to members of the congregation who have left and moved on to pastures green outside the Parish. Cards are also sent to children who have been baptised, up until their third birthdays when they receive an invitation to attend Junior Church (Tweenies).

The ladies' group, **Ladybirds**, which evolved through the Pastoral Team meets once a month and has again had a varied programme in 2009 – 2010. We regularly have around 15 ladies who attend. In 2009 – 2010 the programme included; Meals out, guest speaker Fiona Jenkins, quizzes, flower arranging demonstration, Beetle Drive etc. and a visit to the Lowry Theatre to see White Christmas.

## *ESSO*

ESSO (Elder Sunday School Only!) aims to bridge the gap for young people between JAM and full adult attendance at church. It's a time when traditionally, many young people stop attending church as it's not 'cool' and they can think of so many other things to do on a Sunday morning, such as washing their hair or playing sport! So we try to provide a balance between earning a bit of teenage credibility and guiding our members towards continuing their church attendance and developing their faith into their adult lives.

This year has seen a new, younger group of 11 – 14 year olds join ESSO as our older teenagers have found their niche either in the main service or in helping within the church itself. We have a dedicated group of older teenagers who regularly help with the sound desk and with the younger children in JAM. Our thanks goes out to them, as we couldn't do without their input and it often goes unnoticed.

ESSO sessions are very relaxed and informal, running at the same time as JAM, and we have evolved largely into a discussion group. We follow the same themes as JAM but on a level more suitable to 'tweenagers'

If you are interested in helping with ESSO, please speak to me and I can tell you more. Similarly, if you know someone who may like to join one of these groups, then introduce them to me and I can give them more details.

Jayne Molyneux

### *St Philips Children's and Young People's Work Report 2010*

Our work with children and young people continues to develop well, just as they grow..... so do we.

During this year we have seen a number of changes. These include mums and tots, Jam, the introduction of our super red T shirts and various people coming and going; many of which have enriched the work we do in Jesus name, both in the weekly Church Services and the links we have forged in the community.

Little Fishes continues to capture the imagination of all those who attend, from the very young to the grannies and granddads. Their leaders provide a structured planned service, with stories, prayers, feasting and play. Although numbers are small at the moment, the sessions are well planned and received and the feedback from all concerned is most positive.

For our teenagers we have Choices, which meets on the last Friday of each month at the youth centre by the library. This group is an informal, friendly get together based on Christian principles to show that God loves us and wants to be part of our everyday lives. This bridges the gap for those who are at an age when "hanging out with mates" or "on the X Box" is more important than going to church... "It's not cool!" This approach appears to be working effectively as numbers are growing steadily and friendships are becoming stronger. A very definite trend has emerged in the way these young people support each another through life's difficult and more traumatic times.

On Sundays we have a dedicated team of helpers and leaders, who guide our children through the stories of the bible, learning more of God's love as revealed in the Lord Jesus. We also ensure that we parallel the Churches Calendar in regard to our teaching plan.

We were sorry to see the Rev David Eastwood leave for pastures new. We valued his contribution, enthusiasm and support. Our much loved coordinator, Tina Cross, is presently taking some time off. This has obviously left a void, which because of Tina's special gifts and skills is hard to fill. We all hope and pray that she will return soon, with renewed energy.

We now have three main groups running on a Sunday morning, the under fives, infant/ early junior, and top junior/ early senior school. We also offer crèche facilities each week including family service Sunday. We believe

that it's important for parents to feel they are able take time out from the service if their child is unsettled and the crèche provides a welcoming and safe environment for them. We are about to start using some new material, Roots, this was highly successful when used previously. It enables leaders and helpers to select appropriate worksheets and activities according to the age and ability of the young people in their care. The team would like to continue the format set out by David with each group covering the same topic/theme as the main service. All the groups then come together in the community room/ hall to share what they have been doing, and bring worship to a conclusion using songs and prayers. It is fundamental to the Christian ethos that they feel a sense of belonging to the wider Christian Family and joining together in this way really helps to achieve this.

Our young people are very important to us, and the team would like to thank them and their families for allowing us to be part of their lives. We learn so much from them, and they from us (we hope!). We would like to continue the good work started by those who are no longer part of the team and to support those who currently wish to experience the joy of working with our young people.

Produced by Jayne Bradley on behalf of

The Children's and Young People's Team.

### *Baptism Team*

The Baptism team have had another busy and enjoyable year helping families prepare for Baptism, being "friendly faces", encouraging involvement and sharing faith.

The team has remained strong over the past 12 months, Debbie Furness is the first point of contact in her role as Baptism Co-ordinator and the rest of the team currently comprises our Home Visitors and Baptism Day Greeters - Lynne Wright, Mavis Clark, Gail Bretherton and Mark Turner.

Baptism provides our biggest opportunity for welcoming large numbers of visitors into our church whilst serving the families of our neighbourhood and encouraging those families to become part of our church community.

Each home visit and baptism day is unique and presents its own special opportunities to draw close to families during a pivotal time in their family life. There is a real sense of privilege in being able to undertake this work.

The Baptism team is a wonderful example of shared ministry in action, enabling members of the family of St Philips to reach out into the community in a caring and useful way. If you think you may like to serve in the Baptism team you can find out more about it from any team member.

The Baptism Team

### *The Philipian & Web Site*

It is important that we communicate to all who attend church and the local community what we are about at St Philip's.

During the year the Philipian layout has been changed several times to encourage folk to read it, during 2010 it is intended to include individual articles about their faith and sections on prayer etc.

To support the Philipian the web site is regularly updated and now includes events, news and sections relating to The Pastoral and Baptism teams. During the year the number of people using the site has doubled. The latest addition on the web site is the facility to send a pray card to a friend or relative (free). Just log on to the site [www.stphilipswestbrook.org.uk](http://www.stphilipswestbrook.org.uk) click on to the pray card sign and follow the instructions.

To support the web site we now have the facility for people to find out all about St Philip's via the Church of England web site called a *Church Near You*.

If you have any ideas on how to improve communications either the newsheet or web site then please contact Richard [r.clark903@btinternet.com](mailto:r.clark903@btinternet.com)

## *Network 72 (Men's Group)*

The group formed in September 2008 holding regular events during 2009.

### **Our purpose statement is**

A fellowship group for men belonging to St Philip`s church (and their male friends) which has 3 component parts;

- ❖ Social and sporting activities
- ❖ Involvement in community based tasks
- ❖ Christian teaching including Christian speakers and discipleship groups.

During the year we have met for walks some being of greater interest than others (Snowdon) will be a day remembered by a few.

Go-Karting and Ten pin bowling identified the competitive streak amongst us, the creation of the *Rainbow Garden* brought guys together with all kinds of skills. A creation that stands out within the community, and is often talked about by the local folk.

The evening speaker event in November was well attended and guys went home with plenty to think about.

For 2010 we have various events arranged including a new discipleship group looking at Christianity Explored.

The event programme for 2010 is available in church, if you would like further information please contact

Richard [r.clark903@btinternet.com](mailto:r.clark903@btinternet.com)