

of faith they have demonstrated towards the mission and ministry of St Lawrence Church during 2008. Key areas I would like to mention are the fact that we arrived back in January, which does seem a long time ago now, and with any arrival, the settling into relationships and ministry takes time to be developed. My intention in 2008 was to offer a clear sense of church life as it has been across both churches, with though an eye to the suggesting and creating of possibilities for developments as the year went on. One of those possibilities was the creation of Ministry Teams incorporating both the existing life of the church and allowing it to develop in other areas. Under six key areas of Ministry – Pastoral, Worship, Nurture, Outreach, Financial and Fabric – such teams were given renewed focus and others brought into being. Of course I am acutely aware of the developments that still need to be enacted and that some teams will still take a while to get off the ground; but be that as it may, through this structure, a real advancement of ministry has taken place which has resulted in a congregation at the end of 2008 higher numerically than at anytime in the past ten years.

The life of the church though has continued to be lived out during the year with the shadow always present of a deficit that was only addressed by the Parochial Church Council taking from reserves. This may be a necessary short term requirement, but if it continues represents a dangerous trend. The fabric of the church though has not been a financial problem for in terms of seeking to raise capital it has been pleasing to come to a benefice whereby the intention of involving 'Friends' wider in the community has been achieved to such a significant extent. Indeed that involvement of 'Friends' is now something we are seeking to achieve at St Mary's. The latter, your sister church in the benefice, was deliberately kept separate from the life at St. Lawrence in 2008 as with the reality that it had gone through much transition - moving away from Church Eaton and then being in an interregnum for a while - they needed the assurance of being with their own Parish Priest, myself, for that year, without any intention to involve both churches in each other's life.

During 2008 I was particularly struck by both the amount of people involved and the contributions they gave to worship – liturgically and musically across all service times. There is a richness of creativity and that was something I was keen to affirm and indeed develop in the year. That development may have seemed challenging, but grew out of the recognition of the gifts that people have and the desire to use them more.

A significant joy has been our church school and I would like to publicly record my thanks for the way in which the life of the church and the life of the school has not only come together so often, but also been enthusiastically embraced.

Last year saw the awareness of a need for us to make certain that we are a church for the whole village with more of a presence. This means we rejoice in having a broad churchmanship, with more opportunities to worship and exploring different styles of worship.

That presence was seen last year in ministry now at Impstones, but the knowledge was clear in 2008 that we needed to do this much more across the village generally.

The need to keep this to a page means that more cannot be said. So my apology is given because of absence, but my thanks for what we have accomplished together in 2008

**Mark Bridgen.**

### 6.16 Risk Assessment

In so far as it is able to do so, the PCC takes appropriate steps to minimise risk. The PCC adopted a Health & Safety Policy in 2003 and a Child Protection Policy in 2005. All those who work regularly with children are CRB checked and references are taken up. When wider help is needed (e.g. Good Friday Workshop), at least two CRB-cleared personnel work with each activity.

Those who form our Pastoral Care Team are also CRB cleared for work with vulnerable adults. The PCC aims to undertake work highlighted as necessary by the Quinquennial and all electrical and fire equipment is checked annually. There is a mobile phone in church and an Accident Records Book in addition to the repairs and requests register mentioned above.

When funeral collections or part of the collections are donated to the church they are counted by two people and stored in the safe ready for the recorder teams. Where the collections are donated to other charities they are bagged, not counted and passed to the Funeral Directors to deal with. Sunday and wedding collections are counted by the team of recorders.

There are two wall safes for purchases and donations. Our Accounts are independently examined each year. Our Fabric Committee works to an agreed procedure for obtaining and accepting quotations for agreed works

**Jim McGregor, Churchwarden.**



The Benefice of

*St Lawrence Church*

Gnosall, Stafford, Staffs, ST20 0ER, UK

and St Mary's  
Moreton



## ANNUAL MEETING 26 APRIL 2009

Priest-in-charge Revd Mark Bridgen

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### Annual Parochial Church Meeting Annual Report for 2008

#### 1. Background

St. Lawrence Parochial Church Council (the P.C.C.) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in Charge, Rev. Mark Bridgen, in promoting the mission of the church in the ecclesiastical parish of Gnosall. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the parish church. The churchyard is closed and maintained by Stafford Borough Council. The new Burial Ground is maintained by Gnosall Parish Council, to whom fees are paid, although the church remains the burial authority.

#### 2. Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the P.C.C.:

Priest in Charge	Reverend Mark Bridgen
Reader	Eddie Haycock
Wardens	Normal Hailes

Jim McGregor (also Vice-Chair)

Representatives on Deanery Synod (three year election)

Margaret Winfield, Anne Ashley, Eric Henderson  
Elected Members (meeting held 26th April 2008)

Sarah Appleford	2006
Joanne Bowers	2007
Margaret Callard	2007
Yvonne Cannell	2007
Maggie Hughes	2007
Alison Keeling	2007
Sheila Moulton	2007
Paul Tunnicliffe	2008
Bob Winfield	2007

Diane Woolridge 2003

Tony Wilkinson 2008

The following have served as Deputy Wardens during the year:

Sandy Redfern (8a.m.)

Tony Wilkinson (8a.m.)

Margaret Callard (10a.m.)

Bob Winfield (10a.m.)

Gerry Dale (6.30p.m.)

#### 3. Committees

The P.C.C. operates through a Standing Committee, which is the only committee required by Law. It has power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Since last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the Standing Committee has not met. The P.C.C. also has Sub-Committees and Ministry Teams –

- The Carnival Committee meets on a regular basis to arrange and organise the church's main fund raising event of the year.
- The Fellowship Ministry Team arranges a series of social activities throughout the year.
- The Worship Ministry Team meets on a regular basis and offers comments, ideas and recommendations to the PCC.
- Junior and Youth Church Ministry Teams arranges matters relating to All Age Worship and makes recommendations to the PCC.
- The Fabric Committee – handles matters relating to the fabric of the Church and makes recommendations to the PCC.
- Ministry Support Team – offers support to Clergy, Eucharistic Ministers and Pioneer Minister.
- Pastoral Care Ministry Team – offers pastoral care to all in the parish.
- School Ministry Team – offers support to and provides liaison with, the school, its staff and pupils.
- House Group Ministry Team – To build up the Body of Christ at St. Lawrence by house groups based on

welcome, witness word and worship.

- Gnosall Churches Together Ministry Team
- Burial Ground Liaison Committee, with representatives of the PCC and the Parish Council, meets to discuss matters relating to Gnosall Burial Ground.

#### 4. Attendance Electoral Roll –

At the end of March 2008 there were 135 names on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 7 were not resident in the parish (2008 were 124 and 8 respectively). 15 names were added to the Electoral Roll during the year and 4 removed (1 died, 1 moved from the area and 2 now attend another church). The Church Representation Rules required that a revision of the church electoral roll be carried out each year this was done and completed prior to the Annual Parochial church Meeting.

##### *Jim McGregor, Electoral Roll Officer*

Sunday Attendance – The average Sunday attendance was 90 adults and 12 children and young people (age under 16) throughout 2008 (2007 was 75 and 9 respectively). This number however increased at special services such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. There has been a marked increase in Sunday attendance since the arrival of Rev'd Mark Bridgen.

##### *Jim McGregor, Electoral Roll Officer*

#### 5. Church Wardens' Report –

Our Architects, Horsley Huber Architects Ltd. and the Electrical Engineers, Hanchurch Electrical Services, carried out the Quinquennial Inspection in June 2005. This highlighted certain repairs, which have to be completed by May 2010. The situation is as follows

– repairs to the Chancel roof – there is a small area of wet rot in the north east corner of the roof; completed in 2008

– raking out and repointing several areas of the exterior stonework; repainting and in some areas replacing the cast iron downpipes and gutters; due to domestic problems at the contractors work has been delayed, however this work will be completed during 2009

– repainting the saddle bars of the east window; completed in August 2006

– replacing or repairing and repainting the flagpole; a new composite flagpole was installed in June 2007

– clearing out of all the elderberry bushes and weeds growing out of the stonework around the building; completed during 2006

– redecorating the roof timbers in the entrance

porch; completed in 2008

– repairs to the stonework of the Sellman Street boundary wall; completed March 2009

The next Quinquennial Inspection will be carried out in June 2010

The investigation into the new lighting scheme is progressing favourably, we have received proposals from two lighting companies who specialise in church interior lighting and these are being considered by the Fabric Ministry Team. Members of the Fabric Ministry Team have visited churches where both companies have installed lighting schemes. Once the contractor has been chosen it is our intention to hold a general meeting with our Architects, the Deanery Advisory Committee and the congregation to hear a presentation by the contractor to get everyone's views and to finalise the details. We are planning to have the installation completed before the end of 2009

The lighting bollards in the churchyard pathway have been attacked by vandals on several occasions; they have been damaged at the bases. They have on each occasion been repaired by Len Arnold and we have added extra concrete to the bases; hopefully that will be the end of the matter.

Once again we hosted the Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride in September. Our sincere thanks to our trusty, saddle sore, cyclist, Eric Henderson, who took part on our behalf and raised in excess of £527.20, half of which comes back to the church. Well done Eric.

During the year, the church was open for visitors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; our grateful thanks to the loyal band of volunteers who have, in spite of some very cold days, continued to make this possible. The number of visitors and the comments made in the visitor's book are proving that "Open Church" has been a worthwhile venture.

We would like to thank our Deputy Church Wardens, Sidespeople and Vergers and everyone who has contributed to the life of this Parish and to assisting us in our roles as Wardens.

Summary of new initiatives and events

• This year has seen the establishment of Worship Teams and almost all of the activities of the Church are now enacted through these teams.

• A part-time Pioneer Minister was appointed for a 2 year period with review after one year.

• Three new Eucharistic Ministers were added to the list of established Eucharistic Ministers seeking license to administer Communion for a further three year period.

• A new ecumenical venture involves a walk of witness on Good Friday together with our Roman Catho-

strengthen much more this coming year.

Mark Bridgen, Priest in Charge

#### 6.12 The Children's Society

The Children's Society houseboxes were collected and counted during November 2008. These monies totalled £1,293.17 and a cheque for that amount was sent to the Society. A coffee morning held in March 2009 raised £378.77, a record amount.

*Sandy Pritchard*

#### 6.13 Burial Ground Liaison Committee

The Burial Ground Liaison Committee met four times during 2008 including at the Health and Safety check in the burial ground.

The main concern of the Committee is the future of the burial ground and to that end Cllr. Mark Winnington of the Staffordshire County Council was invited to the July meeting to investigate the possibility of extending the burial ground. As a result of this, a meeting was held at the burial ground on 29th January 2009 attended by members of the Burial Ground Liaison Committee, Cllr. Winnington and a member of the Staffordshire County Council Property Department to discuss a possible extension.

The Burial Ground Liaison Committee and other members of the Parish Council carried out the annual Health & Safety check on the memorials in July. There were 39 unstable memorials, 22 were in the old section and 17 in the new section. Robert Nicholls, the Funeral Director, has again kindly agreed to stabilise the 17 unstable memorials in the new section. Mr Nicholls will carry out an inspection of the 22 unstable memorials in the old section to see what can be done to make them stable. The next Health and Safety check will be carried out in July 2009.

*Jim McGregor, Churchwarden*

#### 6.14 School Governors' Report

The Governing Body of Gnosall St Lawrence Primary School works with the Head Teacher and leadership team to set the vision and establish the right culture to drive forward improvement and provide the best possible education for all our pupils.

Current Foundation Governors (appointed by the Diocese) are Rev M Bridgen, Mrs B Henderson (Chair of Governors), Mr P Keeling and Mr R Winfield.

The Governing Body also has members representing each of the following groups: parents of children at the school, teaching & non-teaching staff, the education authority and the local community.

Below is a brief summary of issues discussed at the

last 3 termly meetings:

• A new initiative involves linking a member of the Governing Body with each of our classes. We feel this has benefits for governors, staff and children.

• An Assimilation Committee was convened because of the County Council's Job Evaluation process which requires all non-teaching staff to be assimilated to grades within the new pay scales.

• A Selection Committee was convened to carry out the process of reducing support staff hours from September 2008 for financial reasons.

• The 2008/09 budget was presented to the Governors and formally accepted.

• A Children's Centre has been set up within the school using funding from the Community Learning Partnership.

• New windows & cladding have been installed and sections of the roof replaced.

• The school was inspected by Ofsted in September 2008. The school was assessed to be 'satisfactory' overall which is in line with the school's own self-evaluation.

• The school was inspected under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS) framework in October 2008. The inspection report was very positive, rating the school as 'good' in most areas and 'outstanding' in one.

• Rev Mark Bridgen advised Governors about a trust fund set up which will result in monies up to the value of £3,000 being available for the school to use each year.

• The school achieved the new Financial Management Standard in Schools.

• A 3-year School Improvement Plan is now complete. The areas for development highlighted by the Ofsted inspection are included in the SIP.

• Governors noted the high level of staff absence during the summer term.

• It is proposed to reduce support staff hours further from January 2010, again for financial reasons. It is hoped to maintain the current number of teachers until the current large Y5 cohort leaves in July 2010.

• The Head Teacher reported that Job Evaluation had now been implemented for all non-teaching staff. Appropriate financial provision has been included within budgets for any lump sum payments due.

B. Henderson, Chairman of Governors

#### 6.15 Priest in Charge's Report

I have never found these reports easy to write as you are expected to encapsulate a whole year onto one page of A4. As it is clearly impossible to do I extend my thanks to all congregational members in the work

tives, including:-

- Assisting the Priest in charge with the worship programme
- Involvement in more services
- Overlap/interaction with the Pioneer Minister
- Intercrossors' Workshop
- Readers' Workshop
- Review of other Ministry Teams' notes
- Representation at the Midi Churches Day, and reporting back
- Receiving verbal and written reports on Healing Services, and planning to explore these
- Revision of the Evening Worship booklet
- Provision of books containing the BCP psalms, in order that the congregation may join in with the choir in singing the psalms
- Providing forms and a box at the back of Church in order that members of the fellowship may comment with openness and confidentiality on worship. Although names must be put on the forms, the box will only be opened by the Priest in Charge or the Chair of the Worship Ministry Team

**Bob Winfield**

## 6.9 Gift Aid

During 2008, the downward trend in the number of families giving regularly to the church (through weekly envelopes and Bank Standing Orders) has continued, and has reduced from 80 to 77. This is of very real concern because the regular giving of Church members (and associated tax relief) provides the main income for this church.

For the second consecutive year, some families have increased their giving, resulting in a total of £26037. Whilst this compares favourably with the giving in 2007 (£24505) it is only £17.00 more than the giving in 2002 (£26020). Weekly giving ranges from £1.00 to £51.00 per week. In each of the last 6 years, the church's current account has been in deficit - a situation which cannot continue.

A Stewardship Campaign was launched in February 2009. Every family in the fellowship was sent a letter from our Priest in Charge, together with a booklet "This is Your Church", in which the current situation was explained. Briefly we need those who are not committed to stewardship through regular giving, to consider doing this, and those who do give regularly, to revise their giving. We hope everyone will think seriously and prayerfully about their giving, and respond in a positive way.

**Bob Winfield**

## 6.10 House Group Ministry Team

The idea is to plant five house groups within the village. During the few months since this Ministry Team was formed, we have floated the idea in the Newsletter and held a first meeting. Consequently we have two potential groups established in areas 2 and 3. These groups will be based along Brookhouse Way and The Rank. We are pleased that both hosts and leaders have been recruited. The aim is now to launch the two house groups after Easter and set them up and running with congregational members who live in that area being invited. Following their launch, we shall then seek to found the three other house groups. The house groups will operate on a fortnightly gathering over three months with a month's break in between. January to March with April off, May to July with August off, September to November with December off and January to March again. The idea, perhaps is to rotate the groups after the opening three month cycle.

**Mark Bridgen, Priest in Charge**

## 6.11 Gnosall Churches Together Ministry Team

We have now drawn two representatives from each of the three fellowships, with their respective Ministers, and are praying and planning together, thereafter reporting back to the appropriate bodies of those churches. We have seen significant developments this year. On the 25th January we held the Christian Unity Week service at the Methodist Chapel. On the 6th March the Women's World Day of Prayer was organised by the Roman Catholic ladies at St. Lawrence, and on Good Friday there are two ecumenical events – a Walk of Witness from Church to Chapel at 2.00 p.m. and then the evening liturgy at St. Lawrence but organised by the Roman Catholics. We are sounding out our respective congregations concerning an open air service at Pentecost and on the 1st November our last ecumenical service of the year will be at the Methodist Chapel. Very pleasing has been that over 40 members of all three fellowships have signed up for our Lenten House groups, taking place four days of the week in five groups. People have also started to meet each other to organise the Christian Aid collection in May. With the agreement of both respective church bodies there will be a joint service to mark St. Lawrence Day on Monday 10th August – a service of the word. Eric Henderson from our own congregation circulates Churches Together in Stafford events to all three fellowships. The group recognises the importance that Gnosall Worship Together has and does offer and the importance of that time for ecumenical fellowship. This event we seek to encourage and

lics and Methodists friends.

- The Church is now open for a time of prayer every Monday morning (9-10am)
- We welcomed Bishop Jonathan on 18th January to confirm candidates
- Because of the mismatch between income and expenditure a stewardship campaign was initiated with the production of a brochure which explained the situation.
- The Parish Communion Service on 15th February was recorded and broadcast on Radio Stoke on 22nd February
- BCP communion at the 7.45 Sunday service has been introduced once a month in response to requests.
- A fortnightly service was introduced at the Impstones community centre on every other Friday from 11.00am
- Geoff Milsom was appointed as Organist and Choir Leader
- The Church has a new web site for which Trevor Ashton must be thanked
- A monthly newsletter from Rev Mark was introduced.

**Jim McGregor & Normal Hailes**

## 6.0 REVIEW OF THE YEAR

### 6.1 P.C.C. Secretary.

There have been nine meetings of the Parochial Church Council since the last APCM. At the Meeting in May 2008 the Vicar produced a draft document on the new Ministry Teams which he intended circulating to the congregation. Election of Officers took place. It was reported that 135 names had been registered on the new Electoral Roll. In June, it was reported that a de minimis had been received for the planned Display Area, that Mr. Geoff Milsom had been appointed as organist and choir master and the PCC recorded its thanks to Bob Winfield and the Carnival Committee for all the work they had done in putting on another very successful carnival, in spite of the bad weather. In July the PCC agreed, in principle, to the re-marriage of divorced people in church and David Beswick, Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, gave a presentation on the proposed Deanery Mission Worker. There was no meeting in August. In September it was agreed to increase the Parish Share by between 2.5% and 3% and the PCC were informed that the daughter of the late organist, Gwen Key, had donated her piano to the church. In October it was reported the school had received a satisfactory report from OFSTED and that monies from a church trust had been converted to give the school £2,000 for the next few years. It was also reported that the

Friends of St. Lawrence had raised £28,000 towards the new lighting scheme and members of the Fabric Committee had visited two churches in Oxfordshire to look at their lighting. In November it was agreed that, following consultations with the 7.45 congregation, the Book of Common Prayer would be used at the 7.45 service on the first Sunday in the month. The PCC agreed, after much discussion, that a post of part time paid Pioneer Minister be created and that Mrs. Woolridge be the first holder of the post. It was reported that the Diocesan Inspector had given the school an excellent report. New PCC fees for 2009 were adopted. In January the Vicar asked for PCC agreement to explore a Good Friday Walk of Witness and an Open Air Ecumenical Pentecost Service and reported that Radio Stoke which to record the 10.30 service on the 15th February. A new Stewardship Brochure was agreed. In February the PCC approved Mr. Winfield, Mrs. Bridgen and Mrs. Cartwright as Eucharistic Ministers, and endorsed the Vicar's recommendation for one divorced couple who wished to be re-married in church. Mr. Winfield, who was standing down as Health and Safety Officer, was thanked for all the work he had done. Mr. Colin Brown was taking over. In March the PCC was addressed by the Archdeacon on the subject of enlarging the benefice.

### 6.2 Treasurer's Report

It is disappointing to have to report a worsening position with the deficit reaching £9,184:00 for the year despite a VAT refund of some £1,186:00 - this was obtained as a result of a claim for the refund of VAT overcharged by British Gas (at 17.5% instead of 5%). Restricted funds do not form part of the General Income of the Parish and are given for specific purposes – a donation of £2,000.00 has been used to provide the new stand at the back of church and £700.00 was donated towards the refurbishment of the gates. The carnival income is held in the Restoration and Amenities Fund for the upkeep of the church. For 2009 we must ensure that expenditure is kept to the minimum and support the Stewardship campaign because, although the Budget deficit is £4,316.00, if a similar situation arises in 2009 to that arising in 2008 it could just about wipe out our general reserves. I should mention that in the Balance Sheet there are quoted two "School Trust" funds and although they show in the Parish accounts they are "Vicar and Churchwarden Trusts" and as such they do not form part of the general funds of St Lawrence Church and cannot be used to prop up deficits. Of great concern on the expenditure side is the fact that the internal lighting of the church is in a bad

state, not up to present day luminosity requirements and potentially dangerous. The PCC has said the replacement is a priority and the "Friends" has undertaken to raise funds to meet the costs but it would be unrealistic to expect them to raise the total which it is feared will not be less than £50,000. **Tony Wilkinson, Treasurer**

### 6.3 Choir Report

I was fortunate and privileged to be appointed Organist and Choir Leader in July of the year. The choir is a wonderful vehicle for leading worship and does so, Sunday by Sunday, in the Anglican tradition of four part harmony. We have usually maintained the tradition of singing an anthem at services and comments received from members of the congregation have been encouraging. I must here pay tribute to the work of my predecessor as choir leader, Anne Rowbotham, whose talent for choir leading has not been lost to the Parish. Anne has kindly agreed to be my deputy and I value her assistance and advice.

The choir sang for several weddings during the year and also for one or two funerals. In December, the Darkness to Light advent Service was a success and well attended. Music by Monteverdi, Tallis, Bach etc was well sung and choir members appreciated the assistance of several singers who came to augment us. On the Sunday before Christmas we sang a traditional service of lessons and carols which was much appreciated by a large congregation.

On a more serious note, none of us is getting younger and this applies to members of the choir as well. Very few parish Churches now have a choir capable of singing the music which is appreciated by St. Lawrence's congregations, but if the tradition is to continue we need new members now. Contrary to common suspicion to join the choir you do not have to be able to read music, spend hours practising or be able to sing like Bryn Terfel. We can teach you to read music, we spend approximately 1 \_ hours per week in practice but we would like you to sing in tune. Please speak to Anne or me if you feel you can help in this important area of Ministry. Incidentally we often have a laugh at choir practice as well

**Geoff Milsom , Organist and Choir Master.**

### 6.4 Deanery Synod Report.

Eccleshall Deanery Synod meets three times each year to discuss the matters which could have a material effect on the running of the 18 churches in the Deanery. In general the meetings are split into (i) general administrative matters and (ii) either a significant

topic which would take a substantial amount of time to discuss or a presentation from a speaker. The meetings in 2008 were on 24th April at Whitmore Village Hall, 8th July at Knightly Church and 12th November at Eccleshall Church.

In April, Deanery Synod considered, amongst other administrative matters, the restructuring of the Stone and Eccleshall deanery boundary with Sandon & Cotes Heath transferring to the Stone Deanery. Also notable was the report from Wendy Kinson regarding the long and sometimes heated debate regarding the ordination of women Bishops at the General Synod. Two substantive matters were brought to April Synod (i) the 2009 Parish Share formula and (ii) the Deanery Worker project. Eccleshall deanery was only 1 of 4 deaneries in the Lichfield Diocese to be chosen to trial the elective share option i.e. we set our own precept. Very significantly, we were the only Deanery in which it worked. The desirability of continuing the practice was discussed and a final vote was 14 to 1 in favour of using this system in 2009.

At the July Synod, the main administrative matters were the election of the Synod Officers. David Beswick was re-elected as chair, Henry Hutsby was re-elected as Secretary and Richard Thompstone was elected as Treasurer. The presentation was by Jan Ellor, an advisor on the Ministry of Deliverance of Exorcism.

For the November Synod, Finance was top of the list with a review of the Deanery PCC Treasurer's meeting, together with choosing the process for setting the 2009 precept. Reports were then given from both General and Diocesan Synods. Women Bishops and Inter-denominational relations were the key areas for the General Synod whilst Industrial chaplaincy, the World Mission programme and the importance of Fairtrade were the focus of the Diocesan Synod. Deanery Synod had the sad task of stopping the Deanery Project Worker initiative mainly through lack of concrete financial support

Rev. James reported on his 3 month sabbatical to New South Wales, Australia. He went to study the differences in worship between our Deanery and those used there.

Finally, the Deanery Quiz. Congratulations were given to Maer for winning the quiz and to Gnosall for coming a very close second, only 1 point behind after a contested answer!

**Eric Henderson**

### 6.5 Pastoral Care Ministry Team

The Pastoral Care Ministry Team (the Team) continues to hold regular monthly meetings under the

leadership of our priest-in-charge, the Reverend Mark Bridgen.

Open door coffee mornings have continued to be held successfully on the second Saturday of every month, with approximately 16/20 attending regularly, with members of the Team present. As from January 2009 a coffee morning takes place on the same day and at the same time at Impstones. A Living with Loss Course was run during the month of September led by Rev. Mark Bridgen. Members of the Team have been present at the quarterly memorial services and the annual All Souls Service in church. Also, a structured anniversary schedule of bereavement cards to be sent out has been introduced.

Four speakers have visited during the past twelve months. A leaflet has been produced outlining the aims and objectives of The Pastoral Care Ministry Team and widely distributed to organisations within the parish. A general visiting list is discussed and appraised at the monthly meeting, and a prayer card sent to those on the prayer list.

A member of the Team is present at the 10.30am Sunday service to meet and greet all those attending church.

**Sandy Pritchard**

### 6.6 Youth Church

2008 has been a year of consolidation for Youth Church; the young people have continued to meet on Sunday mornings from 10.15am in the Lady Chapel before moving into the vestry during the first hymn for age appropriate bible based teaching. The young people then join the congregation at the offertory hymn in preparation to receive communion.

A growing number of our young people are now attending the Friday evening youth club held at the Methodist Chapel and one or two have also started to attend the youth cell bible study group prior to Youth Club.

Some of our young people continue to attend an Ecumenical youth service held at 8pm on the second Sunday of every month in Stafford, and one of our young people attended Soul Survivor the large Christian youth festival at Stafford Showground.

It is hoped that in 2009 we will be able to build on the work with our young people and offer opportunities for them to worship and grow in discipleship in relevant and appropriate ways for their age group within our own church.

**Diane Woolridge**

### 6.7 Fellowship Team

During the early part of 2008, the Church Social

Committee organised a successful Barn Dance, but no other social events had been arranged for the remainder of the year. The Social Committee was replaced in name only by the new Fellowship Ministry Team later in the year, and its Mission Statement was to enable all the members of St Lawrence to get to know one another in informal settings and to offer events that draw people from the Village into the Church's life. The team first met on 9th October 2008 to consider its aims and to organise social events for 2009. The first of three Social Evenings arranged for 2009 was held on Saturday, 7th March in the Grosvenor Centre. About 30 people attended, enjoyed each other's company and partook in a quiz and bingo. Other evenings are booked for 4th July and 7th November and we hope parishioners will come along and support them.

A Barn Dance is to be held in the Gnosall Memorial Village Hall on Saturday, 9th May, and a Beetle Drive and Fish and Chip Supper is to be held in the Grosvenor Centre on 26th September.

A small team of people volunteered to help serve refreshments at special service times other than the 10.30 a.m. service, and this has been in operation since before Christmas. However, more volunteers would be very welcome - the duties are not onerous! If anybody has ideas or requests for any social events they would like to be organised, please let the Vicar know, and he will pass on the information to the Team.

**Margaret Winfield**

### 6.8 Worship Ministry Team

Early in 2008, the Worship Committee became the Worship Ministry Team, with an enlarged membership of 12. The team includes representatives from the Music Group, Eucharistic Ministers, Children's Church, All Age Team, 6.30 p.m. Worshippers and other Church members from a Traditional background. At present, the only group not represented is the Choir. However, we are hoping that this will be rectified by our next meeting in May.

A regular pattern of meetings has been established on the second Monday of alternate months.

The remit of the old Worship Committee was to assist in the planning and delivery of certain services throughout the year. The role of the New Worship Ministry Team has been widened to include a Mission Statement - "As a Village Church to enable people to discover, strengthen and express through different acts of worship their relationship to God as opened up for them by Jesus Christ and sustained through the power of the Holy Spirit" and has aims and objec-