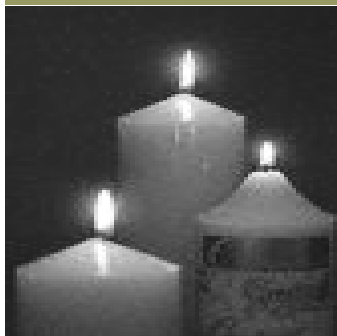


April 2009

Issue 8



*Christ Centred
Communities -
Changing
Lives*

HOLY TRINITY, ST PAUL AND ST MARY - YOUR LOCAL CHURCH IN
HOUNSLOW

Journeying Together

020 8570 3066
parishoffice@
hthounslow.co.uk
www.hthounslow.com

Faith = RISK....???

QUESTIONNAIRE LATEST.....

All three churches
thought the top
two church

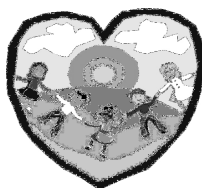
priorities should
be to ***tell people
about Jesus***

and

nurture

***children and
young***

people in faith



Soul Survivor

It is that time of year when we are planning to take young people from the parish away to Soul Survivor at the end of July. Last year saw (number) of the young people from the different churches away for 5 days of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun, what a privilege. So we ask for your prayers and support in enabling the disciples of today & tomorrow to attend this event. Ask Stewart about ways in which you can help.

Around the Churches

Saturday April 25

HT: 10– 11.30am

St Paul's 12.30—2pm

St Mary's 2.30—4 pm

Short presentation on the results of the questionnaire and an opportunity for the Senior Pastoral Team and other leaders from the three churches to respond to questions.

BE THERE

We want to ensure the future sustainability and growth of God's work in Jesus Christ in Hounslow.

We need your help, risk and prayer to make this happen!

The Annual Church Meeting takes place on April 27 at HT, 7.30pm.

This is the time when those on the Electoral Roll have the opportunity of electing new members to our Church Council. This year there are 6 places available on the PCC. If you feel called to serve, then please ask a member of the Senior Leadership Team or a Council 'officer' about what the role entails and then complete a nomination form as soon as possible and hand it to Wendy Ricketts, our PCC Secretary, or send it into the Parish Office.

We will also be electing our Churchwardens for the coming year at the start of the meeting.

Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll is the register of those of the congregations of Holy Trinity with St. Paul and St. Mary who are entitled to vote at our Parish Meetings, including the APCM on 27th April. You can join at any time after end of the APCM.

If you are not on this Roll, I would ask you the question "Why not?" Perhaps you are new to us, or you have only been worshipping here for a few months, or perhaps you feel you are sitting on the fringes of the fellowship, wondering about whether you should make a commitment. For you, perhaps, it is a toe-in-the-water moment. If that is where you are, I invite you to get in the pool.

To do so, essentially you have to be 16 or over, baptised, and in simple terms either resident or a regular worshipper here. Applying to join says "I feel I belong; I want to take part in what happens here; I want to contribute my ideas, my time and gifts, my resources to this fellowship." If you want to come swimming, talk to me. Christopher Court, Electoral Roll Officer 01784.250983; ca.court@tiscali.co.uk

Becoming a PCC member:

If you feel you wish to explore the possibility of becoming a PCC Member then tap into:

<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/charity/Trusteeship%20leaflet%208pp.pdf>

(Paper copies available—just ask)

In addition to this we look for people who :

Are seeking God's will for the parish as a whole, and not just their own community, both in personal prayer and with each other.

Are committed both in prayer, to each other and in attendance and planned Away Days.

Are able to share their views and "opinions", appropriately and with regard to others.

Are able to support the general direction and values of the present leadership.

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Once again March saw the 4th successful WPB event, providing a golden opportunity for women of the parish to come together and share a breakfast and listen to an inspiring speaker – Emily Smith I wish we could have had her speak to the Youth of our various churches, it was so moving. It was also great to have members of the Healing on the Street ministry join us so we could pray with them before they prayed for people on Hounslow High Street.

We all have a unique place in Gods plan for the parish that includes us. Who knows better what it is like to be a woman and all the joys and issues that we encounter on a daily basis than other women. So come and join us for the next event on **Saturday 13th June at 9am** where Lynda Alsford will be speaking to us about a course she has recently delivered on ID and she will be looking at the pressure of 'image' and eating disorders. (BP)

Greetings from the Churchwardens

As we come to the end of our term of office , we should like to say a very big thank you to all the Clergy, staff and members of the Church for their encouragement and support over the last five years. We would also extend those thanks to all those that have moved on to other Parishes; especially Oliver , Andrei , George and Paskal.

Much has happened during this period , including a long interregnum , but it has been very much a journey *together* and we would pay tribute to both Oliver Ross (the previous Vicar) and Malcolm for their leadership of the Parish.

As we look forward there are many challenges for the Parish, some of the key ones are -:

- the upkeep and care of three church buildings
- the recruitment of a new Children's Worker
- refining of our mission to the Parish
- financially supporting the Associate Vicar position and other staffing costs – we actually employ less staff than we did 5 years ago.

We will continue to support and assist the Parish.. albeit from the backbenches!

Finally we wish our successors as Churchwardens , well in their new role and would ask the Parish to support them as they take on these new responsibilities,.

Our last "official engagement" is Simon's farewell party on 16th May and we hope to see many of you at that gathering,

With love and thanks to all, Clive & Jane

Holy Trinity, St Paul & St Mary Hounslow are looking to employ a Children and Families Ministry Worker

(30 hours a week, to start in September)

We are looking for someone who will be able:

To help us develop further our Children's and Families Ministry through the primary schools, outreach opportunities and ministries run by the churches.

To interact with the community and serve the spiritual needs of children and their parents and give witness to the Kingdom of God in Hounslow.

To lead encourage and facilitate a team providing discipleship teaching to the children of the parents who are part of the Hounslow church communities.

Closing date for applications 15 May 2009 with interviews taking place on 1st June.

A full job description, including salary details, is available on www.hthounslow.com

Please forward C.V. & a covering letter to Rev Canon Malcolm Herbert, Holy Trinity Church High Street Hounslow, TW3 1HG

e-mail parishoffice@hthounslow.co.uk 020 8570 3066



Keeping the Light shining in Hounslow

St Mary's

I would like to start by thanking everyone at St Mary's for their hard work and dedication to the life and ministry of St Mary's, without which we would be unable to do most of what happens. Thank you to everyone who looks after the pastoral needs of the church, home visits, hospital visits, small friendship groups, all are vital in looking after the people within the church family. Thanks also goes to those of you who pick people up during the week and on Sunday. Thank you to those who are active on our church rota. It takes a lot of people to run the service. A big thank you to those who give not just their time but also financially.

Over the past year we have seen lots of things happen. We have had a few weddings, funerals and a few baptisms, all of which add to the life of the church. St Mary's has seen new people come into church for the first time.

One of the highlights was when many of the members of St Mary's and the wider church family came along to my priesting at St Mary Abbots in July last year.

Youth and children's work at St Mary's. - Over the past year our youth and children's work has grown from 12 to 20. It is really exciting to see so much life in the Hall on Friday nights. It would be good to share this youth work, we are looking for people to help within this ministry.

Our morning service is still steady, we have a few young children (7), St Mary's is hoping to restart the Sunday school at some point over the next few months. Our mid week communion service is growing to around 15 people, followed by coffee and fellowship in the Hall. This is a good opportunity to share and see people.

Over the next few months the leadership team at St Mary's will be putting together a mission action plan for the life and ministry of St Mary's, looking at the community and church, seeing what can happen, what needs to happen to promote not just growth, but also discipleship within our community. Please pray for this process, what we are seeking to do is build God's Kingdom. (S.S.) Finally, thank you once more for your love and support, it is a privilege to share in ministry with you all.

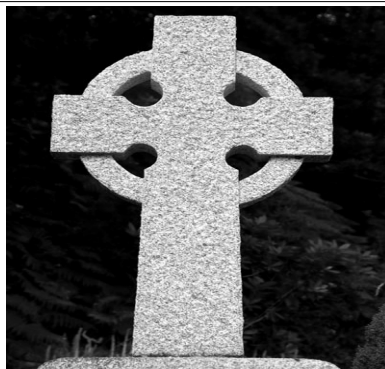
St Paul's

This has been a busy year for St Pauls and me. It all started with my licensing as associate vicar in Sept 08. I think everyone who was there on that night will agree what a special occasion it was for both St Pauls and Hounslow parish at large.

Since this time, I have been settling into the post and getting a feel for the other churches in the parish. In an attempt to provide a structure for growth, I have been meeting regularly with the leadership team of St Pauls to discuss pastoral concerns, church issues and ways forward—we also spent a day away in Jan to think about our own ministry and leadership responsibilities within the church.

In the past few months, several issues have been pressing in regard to the fabric of the St Pauls building. These include the repair and renovation of the steeple, an ageing roof, failing heating system and continuing infestation of tower by pigeons. Suffice to say these are real problems for St Pauls (and the parish) though as a leadership team and church we are not despondent and determined to seek God as to what should happen next — our primary call as Christ's followers is to 'make disciples of all nations and baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit'. (Matt 28)

Despite the many problems facing us, my hope is that we as believers in Hounslow West will not be distracted from our main calling which is making Christ known in our community. After all, that is what God has called us to do. (B.E)



Holy Trinity

The past year has been an 'interesting' one for HT. Overshadowed somewhat by the closure of both the bookshop and coffee shop. We did try and make the coffee shop work in terms of a 'mission business' but for various reasons this was not a success. The bottom line is that with the expenditure on refurbishing the kitchen, (absolutely necessary for environmental health reasons), and the customer areas we now have an improved entry facility. This space is becoming an ideal venue for group meetings and newcomers gatherings.

The past months have been ones of seeking to discover what God is saying and wanting about HT and its ministry and mission in the High Street. The number of weekday regular users is increasing — a thriving Parent and Toddlers ministry, Pensions advice, Friendship Club, Communion, Praise and Prayer, Deaf Christian Community, Friday morning coffee and others. A mega thank you to Frances, Simon, Barbara, Martin, Wendy, Gillian and the weekday teams for facilitating all this.

Sundays move on apace. The development of our children and families ministry linked in with the 10.00am service has been encouraging. Many thanks to the HT team (plus Tina from Woking) who have worked so hard over the past year. The Worship Team now back amongst us is a real joy, thanks to Mike and the team. Praise and Prayer continues to be a time of blessing for an increasing number of people — a new time and new venue — so watch this space as things will not remain static. Thanks again to the team who with Bob and Stewart have worked so hard to make this time so special.

Thank you to all who have so freely given of their time, energy and resources in what has been a challenging year.

Into the future we look forward to continuing the development Children's and Families ministries — weekdays and on Sunday, the formation of an HT leadership team and a Mission Action Plan that will not only sustain ministry into the next decade but also enable the continuing growth of Christ Centred Communities through which people's lives can be transformed. (MH)

QUESTIONNAIRE—RESULTS EXTRA

Firstly, a big 'thank you' to everyone who completed a Parish questionnaire on Sun 29th March*

The results for this have now been collated and we have discovered lots of interesting things about the different churches and what goes on in our parish—you may also be aware that Malcolm, Bob and Stewart will be going around Holy Trinity, St Paul's and St Mary's' on Sat 25th April to meet with congregations (see front cover for times) where they will feedback findings from this and answer any questions that people may have— so please put this date in your diary and attend! Now, for those of you who cannot wait until the 25th April to learn about some

of the things that the questionnaires revealed about your church—here are a few in advance:

Holy Trinity

71% of people attend every week and 41% of people are involved in a ministry

93% of people thought it **important or very important** to have an assigned ordained minister

St Pauls

74% of people attend every week and

69% of people are involved in a ministry

90% of people thought it **important or very important** to have an assigned ordained minister.

St Marys

90% of people attend every week and 48% of people are involved in a ministry

92% of people thought it **important or very important** to have an assigned ordained minister

All three churches thought the top two church priorities should be to **tell people about Jesus** and **nurture children and young people in faith**

Churchwardens Goods & Fabric Report

St Paul's

This year has brought to the forefront issues with the tower and problems with pigeons residing and creating mess. There has been some vandalism in the boiler room at St Paul's and on going issues with regards the boiler and repair that is required on it. Along with the roof and tower problems these being looked into with PCC members and Peter Flint, professional expertise is being sought.

St Mary's

The quinquennial report for St Mary's showed that the building was in fairly good repair and only minor painting work to be done. The roof repair after the lead was stolen off the roof has been done. The only main on going issue is the church hall, the leaks and the question is, it fit for purpose?

Holy Trinity

This year saw the refurbishment of the refresh suite and coffee shop and kitchen area.

There was a new screen and projector added in the church.

No major issues with the building.

Clive McIntyre and Jane Hatton

2008 Parish Accounts

Last year we had a **deficit** on Unrestricted and Restricted activities of £83,670 on Income of £367,374 – **a deficit of around 23%**. If we take into account the fall in the value of the shares that we hold, the overall deficit was £154,069. As you will see, our decision to close both the Bridge Bookshop and then later the Refresh Coffee Shop was undoubtedly vindicated in mission/business terms. The surplus/deficit figures for 2008 represented in summary form are as follows (figures are in thousands of Pounds with deficits in brackets e.g. **(76.7)**).

	Unrestricted Funds (£K)	Restricted Funds (£K)	Unrestricted + Restricted Funds (£K)	Endowment Funds (£K)	Total (£K)
3 Churches Combined	(5.1)	(2.2)	(7.3)		(7.3)
The Bridge/ Phoenix/ Refresh	(76.7)		(76.7)		(76.7)
War Loan Stock	0.3		0.3		0.3
HT Church Hall Fund				(70.4)	(70.4)
Overall	(81.5)	(2.2)	(83.7)	(70.4)	(154.1)

With Average Earnings rising by 3%-4% in 2008, we, however, experienced a drop in Standing Orders and Collections of 2.8% (down from around £182.3K to £177.2K). Our tax recovery through Gift Aid was also down by nearly 7% (from £39.8K to £37.1K). This level of deficit leaves us with real challenges for the years ahead and we would look to everyone to reflect on this and play their part in turning the situation around. **(Brian Grumbridge)**